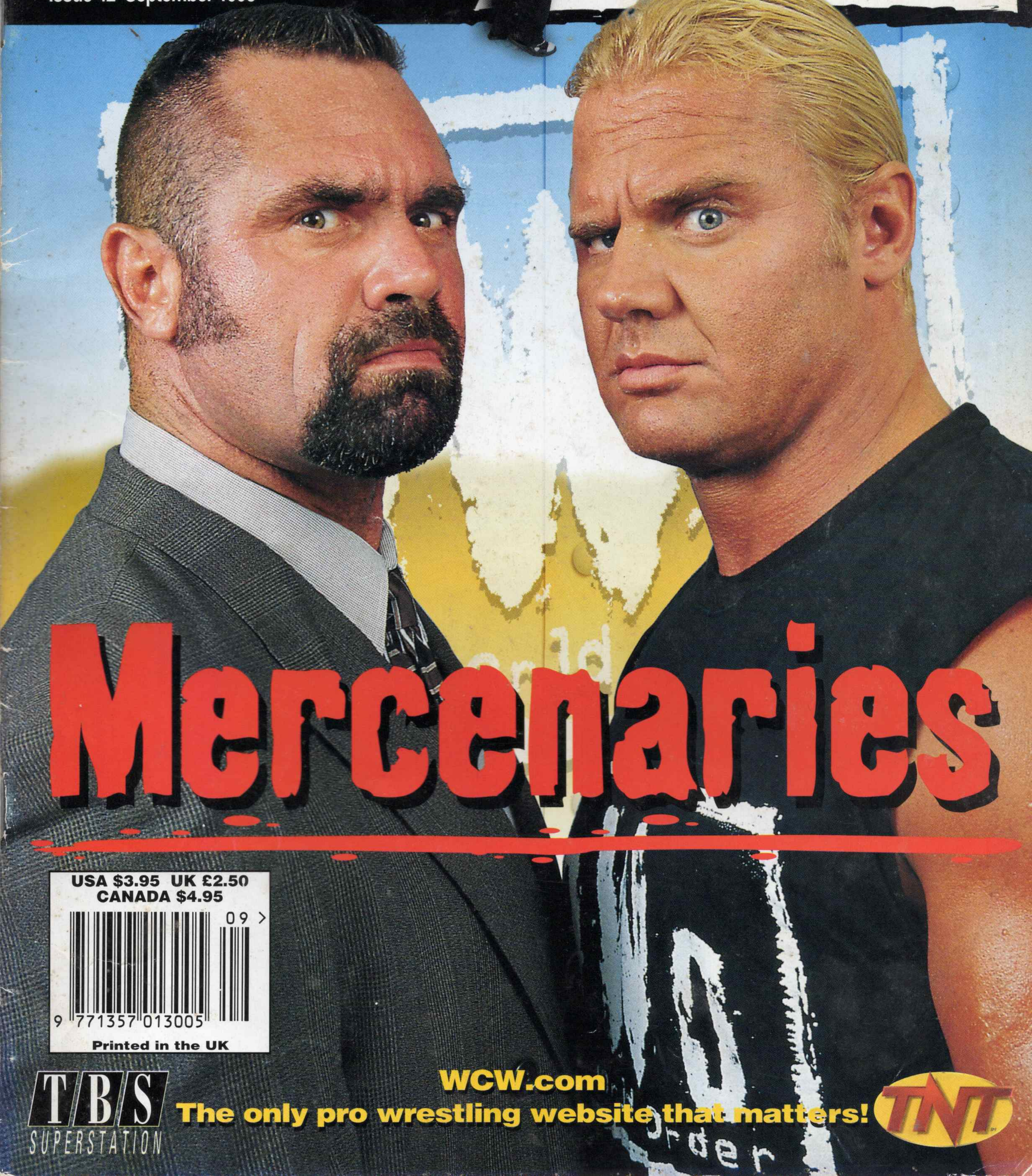
The Official Magazine of World Championship Wrestling
and The New World Order

WCW nWo Wolfpac

Issue 42 September 1998



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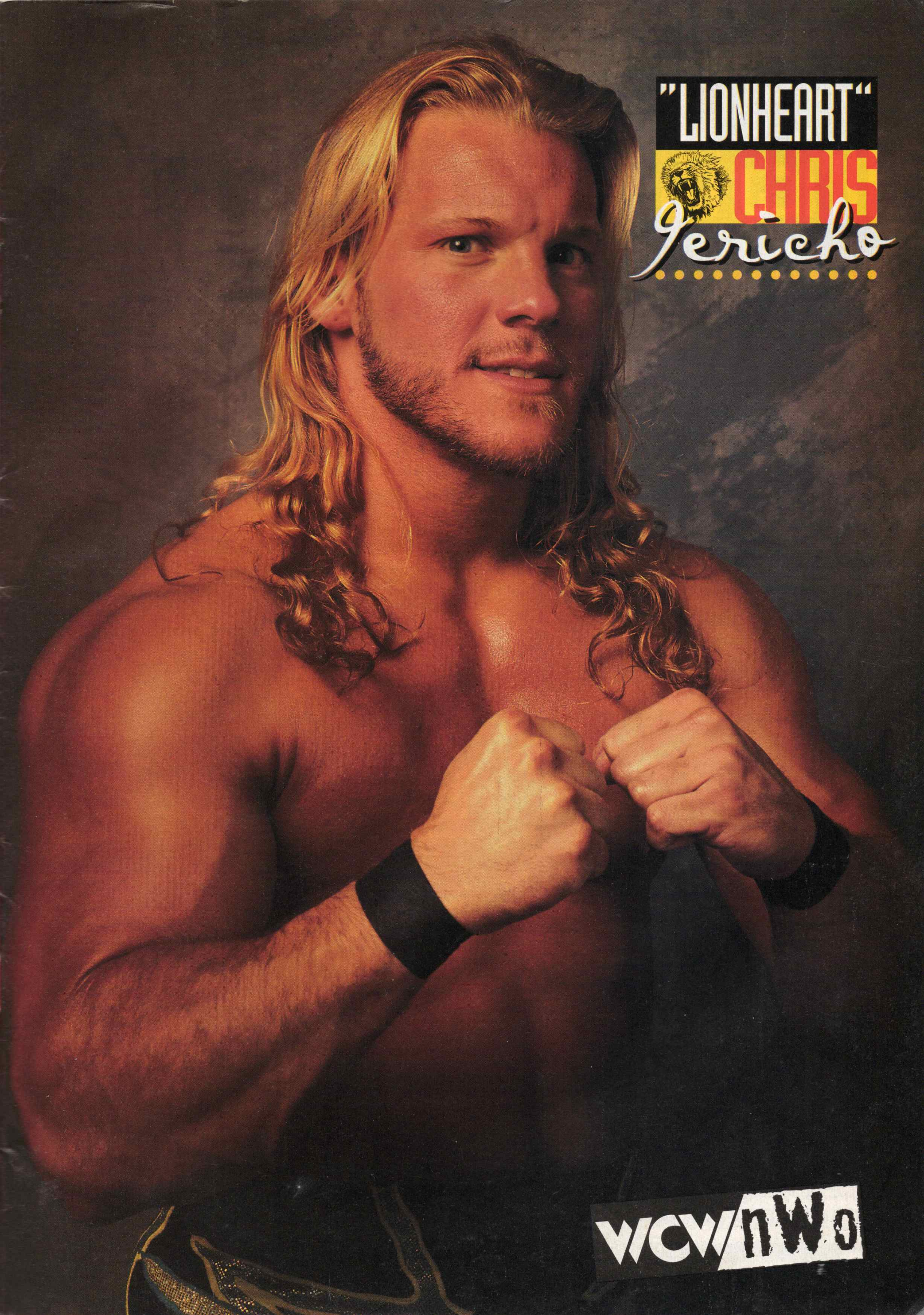
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WCW / nWo

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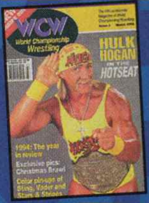
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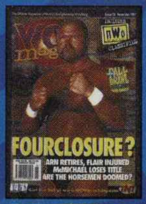
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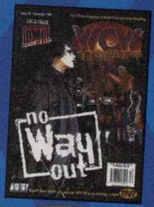
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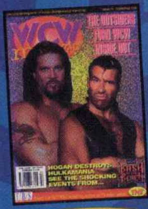
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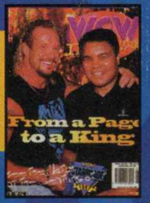
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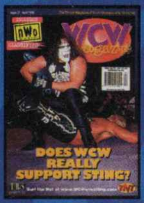
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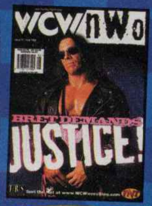
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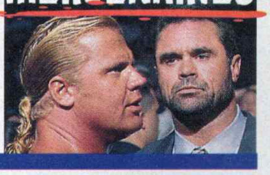

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As I look at the cover of this magazine and see Curt Hennig's smug features looking back at me, I am convinced that we need to create an annual award to honor (if that is the right word) this sport's biggest backstabber. Curt Hennig would certainly come out at the top of many people's polls.

In less than one year, he has betrayed the trust of Diamond Dallas Page, Ric Flair, Arn Anderson and the Four Horsemen, NWO Hollywood and NWO Wolfpac. Hennig, along with his fellow member of the Robinsdale Mafia, Rick Rude, is now once again sporting the colors of NWO Hollywood (at least as I write this he is, remember where he was last month). Given Curt's reputation, I don't know how Rick Rude sleeps at night. Hennig is one man I wouldn't turn my back on. So, without a doubt, Curt Hennig deserves serious consideration for this award, at least until you consider lovely, sweet, demure Miss Elizabeth.

This lady, and I use the term in the loosest sense of the word, wins this award hands down. I can think of no one, anywhere in the history of this sport who has lied and betrayed her friends with the frequency of this black widow spider. Let's examine her career, and as we do so, picture in your mind this gorgeous Venus. Think of those lovely deep brown eyes, you know, the ones that look like pools of melted chocolate and keep the image in your head.

Even before she returned to WCW in January 1996, Elizabeth had established a reputation for being fickle. Sure, she was never seen to be at fault the long running feuds between Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage, battles during which she changed sides more often than Benedict Arnold. Randy Savage was always seen as the bad guy throughout their first on-off-on-off "relationship," while she was always portrayed as the victim, eventually drifting away from the sport. They say hindsight is 20/20 and looking back, what a great manipulator she was.

Fast forward to 1996. Liz returns to WCW and starts the year in the corner of Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage. One month later she is stabbing Randy Savage in the eye and joining his arch enemy Ric Flair. In September she leaves the Horsemen and rushes back to Savage's side as he is brutalized by the NWO following the War Games bout at Fall Brawl and is spray-painted by Hollywood Hogan for her troubles.

Next up, Halloween Havoc 1996, and following Randy Savage's defeat by Hollywood, Elizabeth appears as a "hostage" of the NWO, a role she certainly did not seem too upset by.

Savage returns to WCW, or rather the NWO in February of 1997 and she returns to his side, where she remains until Savage joins the Wolfpac. During this period the fans see a whole new side of Liz, as she starts to interfere in Savage's matches, often getting physically involved, to keep her man from losing. When Savage is battling for the leadership of the NWO, she is right there lending her support.

Finally, when Savage joins the Wolfpac, she returns to her former paymasters, NWO Hollywood and takes up a position at Eric Bischoff's side. She was draped on his arm while he aimed the kicks that put Savage out of the sport and into the hospital for reconstructive knee surgery.

A storied career for sure, but with one simple message ... look after number one at all costs.

Miss Elizabeth — victim? Uh, huh. I don't think so.

Miss Elizabeth — predator? Without a doubt.

Miss Elizabeth — Backstabber of all Time? The hands down winner. No challengers even come close. The Queen of deceit.

Now think of those eyes, once again. The image of melted chocolate vanishes and is replaced by a thick brown, sludgy quicksand. A bottomless pit, that once it ensnares you, sucks you down until there is no escape. Those eyes are dark and foreboding, like those found on birds of prey. She is a carrion sitting atop her perch, waiting to pick the flesh from yet another victim.

If I were Eric Bischoff, I'd be very careful indeed, lest we have the first ever female President of WCW/nWo. This woman's ambition knows no bounds and the little girl lost innocence is just an act! In this case, the female of the species really is more dangerous than the male. Hollywood Hogan, Randy Savage and Ric Flair will attest to that.

Eric Bischoff will as well, in due course.

Until next month,

Colin Bowman

WCW EVENT NEWS

CHECK OUT OUR CALENDAR TO FIND OUT WHEN WCW WILL BE COMING TO YOUR AREA. CITIES, ARENAS AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, SO PLEASE CHECK BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR PLANS.

SEPTEMBER

9/4
Tupelo, MS
Tupelo Coliseum
7:30PM

9/5
Jackson, MS
Mississippi Coliseum
7:30PM

9/6
Biloxi, MS
Mississippi Coast Coliseum
7:30PM

9/7
Pensacola, FL
Civic Center
6:30PM
NITRO

9/8
Mobile, AL
Civic Center
7:00PM
TV TAPING

9/9
Evansville, IN
Roberts Stadium
7:30PM

9/10
Lexington, KY
Rupp Arena
6:30PM
THUNDER

9/11
Cincinnati, OH
The Crown
8:05PM

9/13
Winston Salem, NC
Lawrence Joel Coliseum
6:30PM
FALL BRAWL PPV

9/14
Greenville, SC
Bi-Lo Center
7:30PM
NITRO

9/21
Boston, MA
Fleet Center
7:30PM
NITRO

9/22
Amherst, MA
Mullins Center
7:00PM
TV Taping

9/23
Utica, NY
Memorial Auditorium
7:30PM

9/24
Norfolk, VA
Scope Coliseum
6:30PM
THUNDER

9/25
Baltimore, MD
Baltimore Arena
7:30PM

9/26
Fairfax, VA
Patriot Center
7:30PM

9/27
Tallahassee, FL
Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center
7:30PM

9/28
Gainesville, FL
Stephen C. O'Connell Center
7:30PM
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TAG Talk

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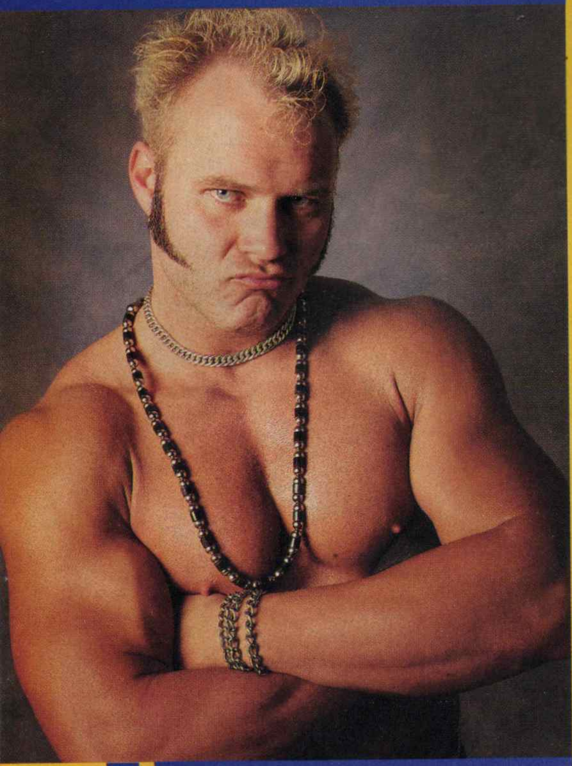


Dear Tag Talk,

I really enjoy reading the WCW/nWo Magazine monthly. It is a great escape. My favorite part of the magazine is Bret Hart's "Straight from the Hart" column. I am a loyal fan of Bret's and it is great to have him as a contributor for the magazine. I love hearing his personal views straight from his own "hart."

On behalf of myself and my "Hitman" pals, we hope that Bret will continue writing the column and bringing his great wrestling skills to WCW/nWo for many more years.

Kim Schlueter
Nilaud, FL

Dear Tag Talk,

I think Konnan has been overlooked as the number one contender for the Cruiserweight title. He has all the qualifications to be Cruiserweight Champion. He seems to have been pushed to the back of the pecking order!

Kyle Clayton
Sylva, NC

Editors Note: Check out Konnan's new column beginning in this issue. He gives a lot of insight into what he feels about his treatment in WCW among other things! PT

Dear Tag Talk,

One word — Goldberg. This is the finest specimen in the sport today. He's the wrestler to lead us into the next millennium. Right now, wrestlers are choosing sides; the Wolfpac or NWO Hollywood. There is but one superstar left in WCW, and that is Goldberg. Everyone calls DDP the people's champ. Not anymore. Goldberg's got the most devastating finishing move in wrestling, The Jackhammer. Hear that, DDP?

Judson Arnold
Augusta, GA

Dear Tag Talk,

Why can't Scott and Rick Steiner get back together as a tag team? I can remember how good they were and Scott simply doesn't belong in NWO Hollywood. He and his brother should be in the Wolfpac! Scott, go back to your brother.

Tim Owen
Gillette, PA

Dear Tag Talk:

There are two things that rock about WCW/nWo wrestling:

1.) This magazine
2.) The Wolfpac

This magazine has the greatest personal articles on wrestlers that we all love! Our favorite thing about the WCW/nWo Magazine is the 2 Question interviews. As for the NWO, is there any question of who the three greatest wrestlers are in the world?

1.) Marcus "Buff" Bagwell
2.) "Big Sexy the Giant Killer" Kevin Nash
3.) Scott "Hey Yo" Hall

Need we say more?

Bill County High School FHA
Pineville KY

Dear Tag Talk,

I am a big fan of Raven's Flock. I think they are all very talented wrestlers but I am particularly interested in Lodi. He's talented, funny, good-looking, and in my opinion, the most entertaining wrestler in WCW. Unfortunately, Lodi doesn't wrestle much and I haven't come across much information about him in the magazine either. I would love to see an article on him soon!

Kerry Blenk
Freeport, ME

Dear Tag Talk,

I feel like I am in the minority but I am extremely disappointed in Sting since he joined Nash in the NWO Wolfpac. As a little girl, I started watching Sting in his early days in Florida. The dark, disturbed Sting character was initially a shock (not a disappointment), and I have greatly enjoyed watching him over the last years, especially as the WCW Heavyweight Champion.

I couldn't believe it when Sting revealed the Red and Black NWO t-shirt on Nitro. I realize that with all the movement among the different WCW/nWo factions, he may very well return to WCW but it just won't be the same. I think I've retired my Sting t-shirt for good.

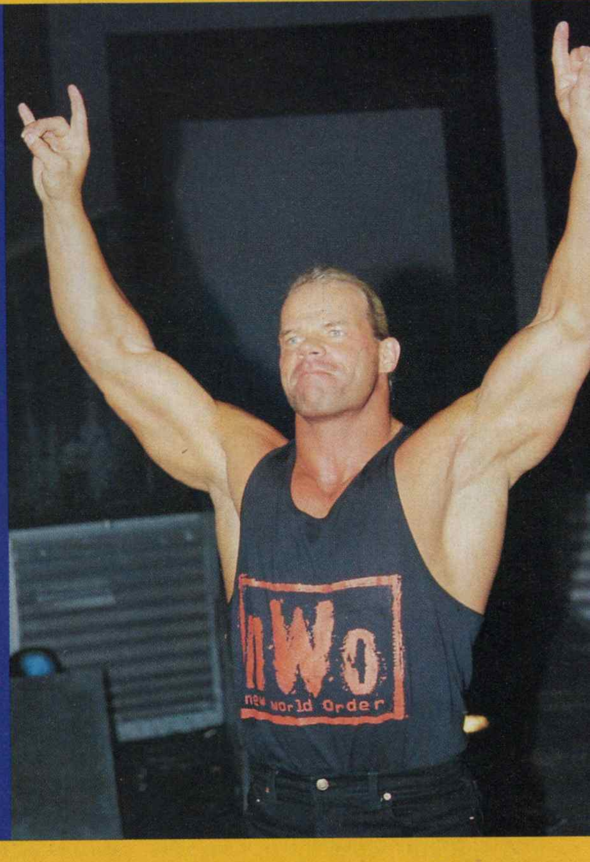
Linda Bradbury
Scottsdale, AZ

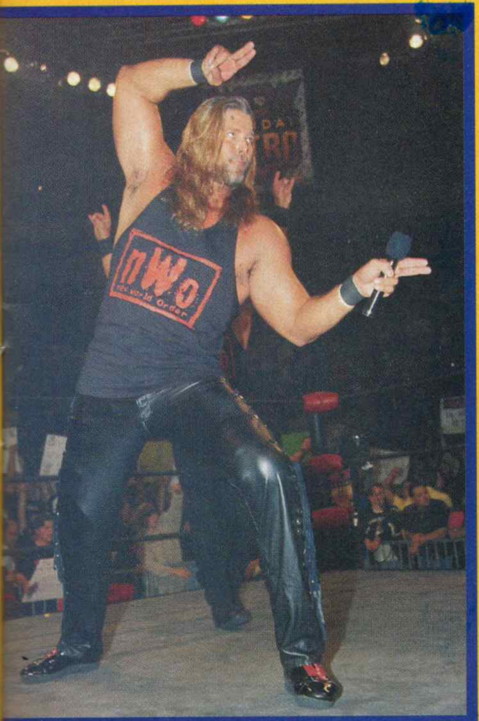
Dear Tag Talk,

I completely fell apart when Lex Luger joined the Wolfpac but I am glad he didn't join Hogan. I've been a loyal fan of WCW and Lex for over 3 years. I have written a poem about how I feel about Lex joining the NWO:

"WHY YOU?"
Why did you go?
Why couldn't you stay
Loyal to us in every way?
We miss you, we love you,
we want you back.
But you've made up your mind
And we respect you for that.
You let everyone know you weren't that strong
When you dropped the flag you carried for so long.
Will you still rack, will you still flex?
What happened to our beloved Lex?

Jolene Breaux
Orange, TX





Dear Tag Talk,

I am a big fan of "Big Sexy" Kevin Nash. He is going to take wrestling to another level. I am happy that he turned on Hollywood Hogan and began the Red and Black Wolfpac. I would like to see him beat Hollywood Hogan and bring the belt to the Wolfpac where it belongs.

Walter Thames,
Sumter, SC

Dear Tag Talk,

I am a huge WCW fan, but I'm an even bigger Sting fan. In my eyes, Sting is professional wrestling. He is World Championship Wrestling. I have always disliked NWO but when Kevin Nash branched off to the Wolfpac, I became a WCW/Wolfpac fan. Even so, after watching the June 1st Nitro, I was a bit dejected about Sting turning Wolfpac. Sting is still the man but he needs to come back to WCW. Everyone knows the Stinger needs no one, but WCW desperately needs him.

Josh Currie
Jackson, MS

Dear Tag Talk,

I just had to write and say that WCW/nWo Magazine outdid themselves again. I had just received issue 40. On the cover was ... The Man ... Yes, The Man himself — Goldberg. This issue is sure to be a sellout. If I could order a second subscription, I would ask for 12 more issues of #40!

Who's Next?

Nate Garcia
Ogden, UT

Editors Note: For those of you who missed issue 40 and would like to order it, you can do so by sending in $6.00 plus $5.95 S/H to PO Box 44, North Syracuse, NY 13212. Supplies are limited! PT

Dear Tag Talk,

I am DISGUSTED with Giant. How can he turn into such a surly, rotten guy after being a WCW hero for so long? The cigarette in his mouth only makes for a very bad role model for the millions of kids who watch WCW shows. I never liked Hogan very much but Giant's actions make Hogan seem like a hero! My son will not be allowed to watch Giant any longer!

Patricia Laurhall
Tulsa, OK

Dear Tag Talk,

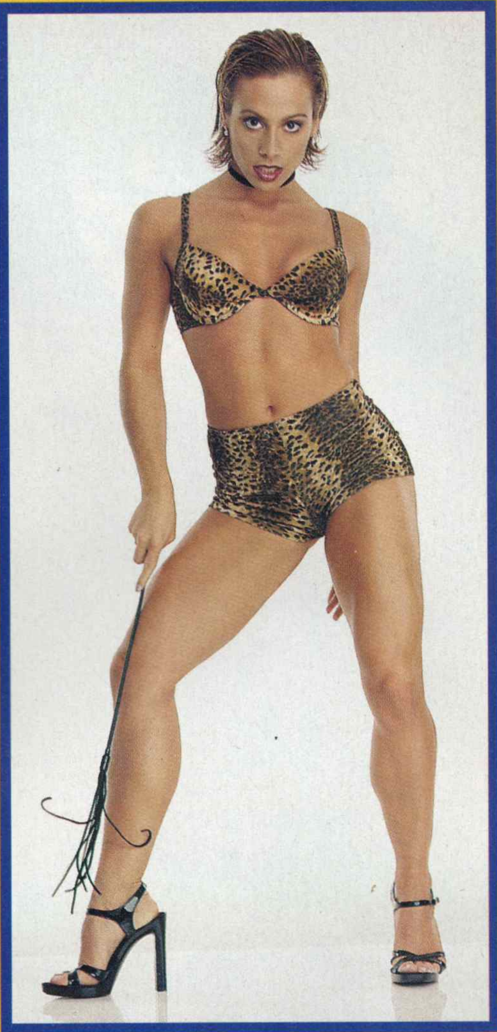
Why doesn't anybody give Chris Jericho his due credit? He is the best Cruiserweight in WCW and, as a loyal Jerichoholic, it angers me to see people pass Jericho off as an arrogant loser. The LionTamer rivals every other wrestling move. I love your magazine; keep up the good work!

Ryan Messatzzia
Milford, DE

Dear Tag Talk,

I have to say that Kanyon is just great! As Mortis, he was simply not given a chance to show off his incredible talent. Now, I watch in awe as he comes up with move after move in each match. Kanyon truly is the wave of the future!!!

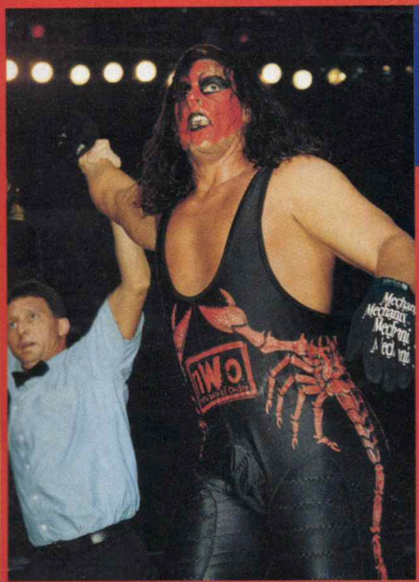
Laurie Johnson
via e-mail



Dear Tag Talk,

Congratulations are due to WCW for having one of the world's sexiest women on TV. Kimberly and the other Nitro Girls are great, but I'm referring to Nitro Girl Spice. She is every Nitro Girl wrapped into a complete package. She is very beautiful and has one killer body. Also, according to the feature on her in the April issue, she has a good head on her shoulders as well. If I were to wrestle, she'd be my choice as manager! I just felt that a letter should bring attention to one of the girls who brings excitement to Monday nights.

Matthew Withers
Brigante, NJ



Question of the month

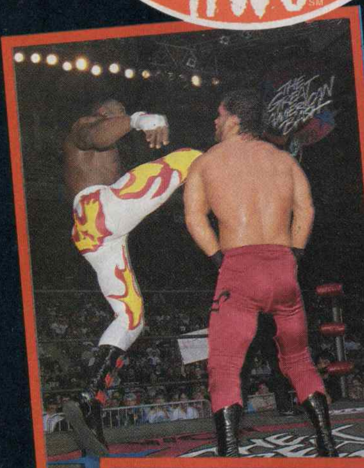
This is a new feature where the MOST asked question of the month is answered by the Editors of WCW Magazine as we go right to the source to give you the info you want!

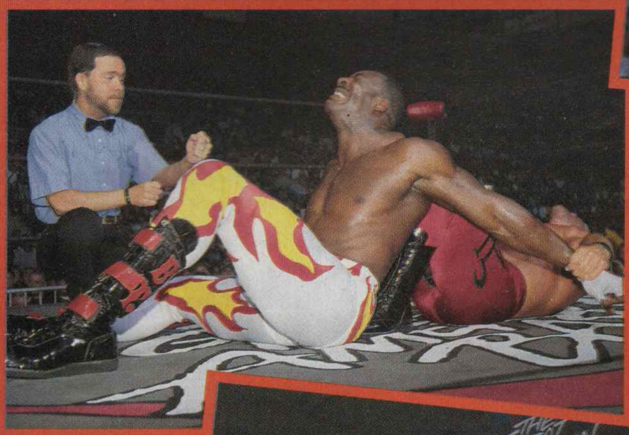
**This month, the mail was overflowing with one question:
What do Sting's gloves say?**

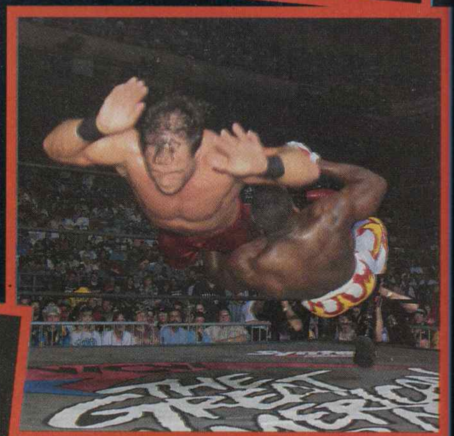
Sting's gloves say Mechanix. They are a brand of gloves found at most NASCAR shops. C.B.

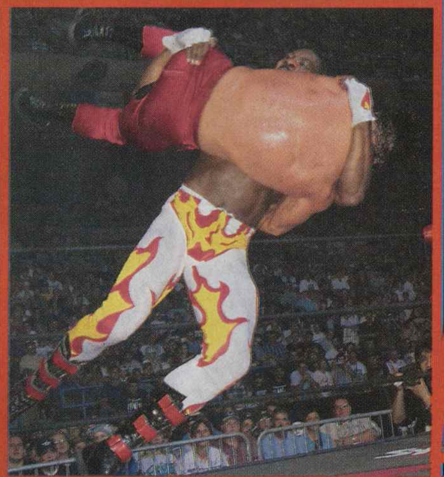
Live from Baltimore, MD. June 14, 1998

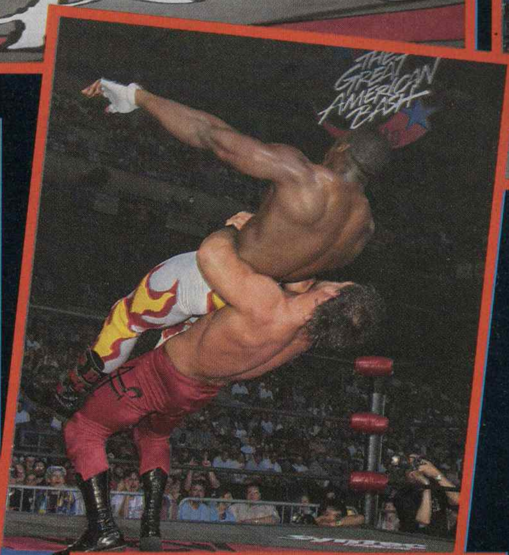
This year's Great American Bash was filled with grudge matches as Eddy and Chavo Guerrero squared off, Giant and Sting went at it for possession of the tag team belts, and Jericho and Malenko went one-on -one for the vacated Cruiserweight title. Add to that the 8th and final matchup between Booker T. and Chris Benoit in the Best of Seven Series, and a first ever Hogan and Hart versus Savage and Piper tag match, as well as the wildly popular Goldberg's 100th match, and you had an event that was truly filled with something for everyone!

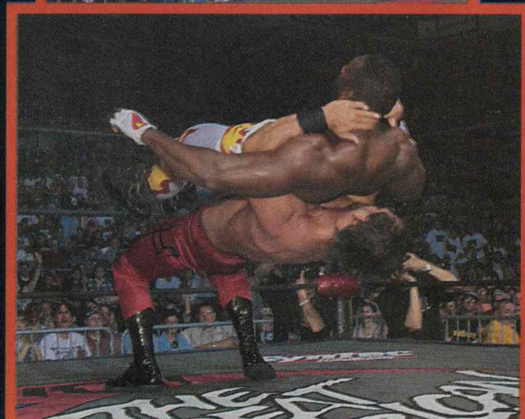


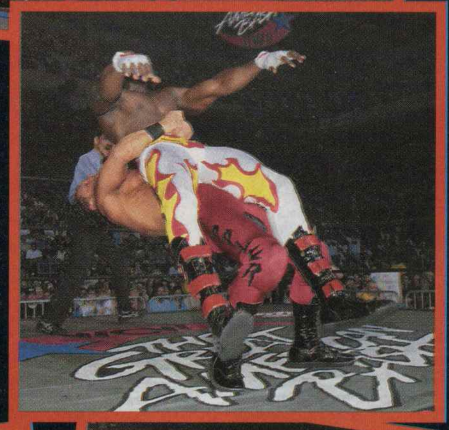


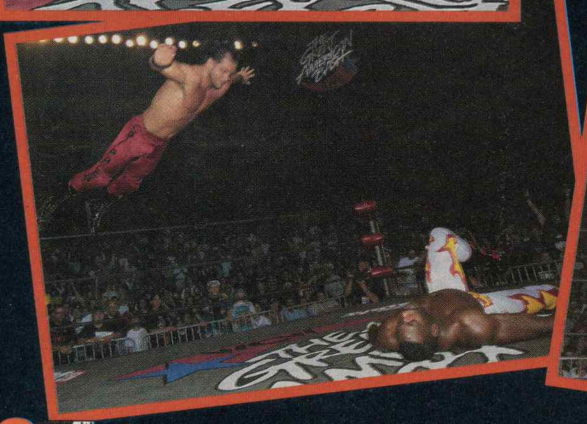


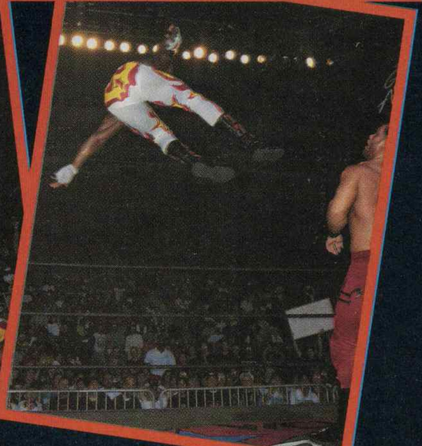










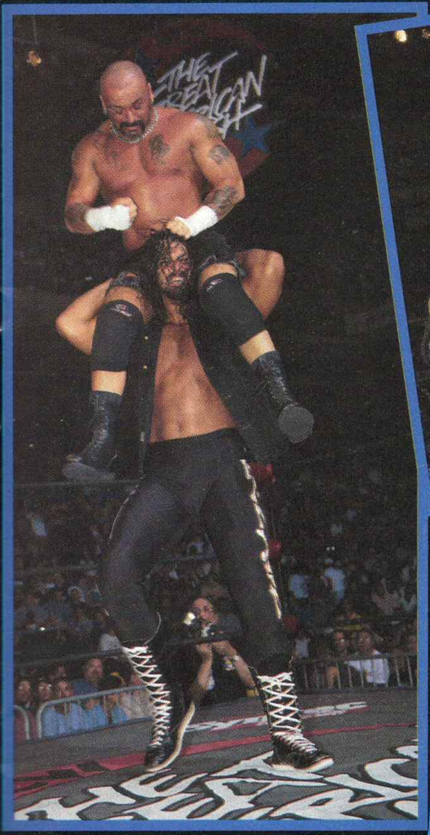


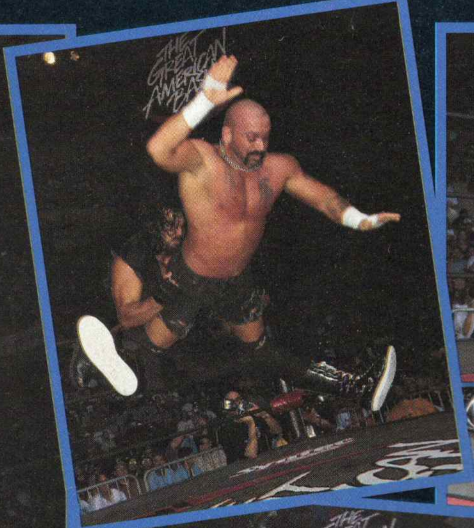
BOOKER T VS CHRIS BENOIT

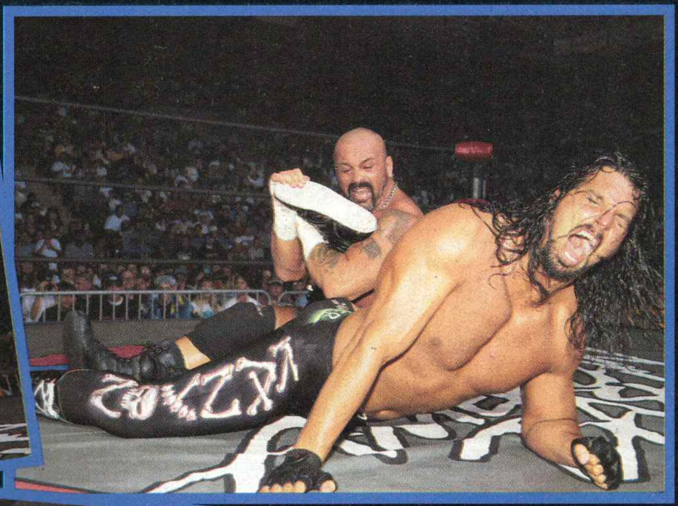
Booker T. and Benoit had stepped into the ring 7 times before, in a best of 7 series for the number one contender position for the TV Title. This was number 8 of the best of 7. Confused? During the seventh match, with the score tied at 3 all, Bret Hart, in an NWO Hollywood recruiting effort, slammed Booker T. in the back when the official was not looking. Laying out Booker T., Hart encouraged Benoit to cover him and move on to face Fit Finlay for the TV title. Benoit, however, refused to win by cheating and told the ref what happened. J.J. Dillon then threw out match 7 and declared a new match would be held with the winner going on to face Finlay later in the Pay-Per-View.

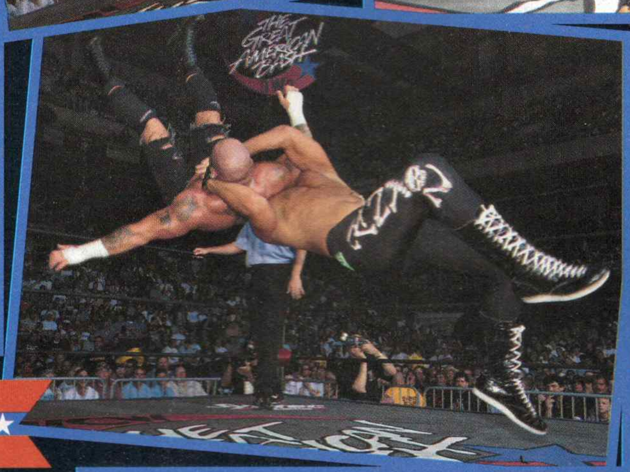
The match was brutal as always, with two of the toughest grapplers toe to toe once again, this time for the chance to move on and possibly win the TV title from another of the sport's toughest, Finlay. Several hard chops from Benoit elicited a loud chorus of "Oooohs and Ahhhs" from the crowd as they really did feel Booker T.'s pain. Move after move was countered by these two, with "The Crippler" working on weakening Booker T. for the Crossface. A Benoit chinlock and a front suplex across the top rope sent Booker T. to the outside with a thud. Undaunted, Booker T. came back time and time again to inflict punishment on Benoit who ended up on the mat after a vicious Booker T. kick to the head. Benoit worked on Booker T.'s knee, inflicting great pain on his opponent, then went for the diving headbutt, allowing him a 2 count as Booker T. summoned all his strength to kick out. After connecting with a Harlem Sidekick, Booker T. went up top and delivered a devastating missile drop kick to Benoit for the cover, the win and the chance to wrestle for the TV title once again. (16:20)

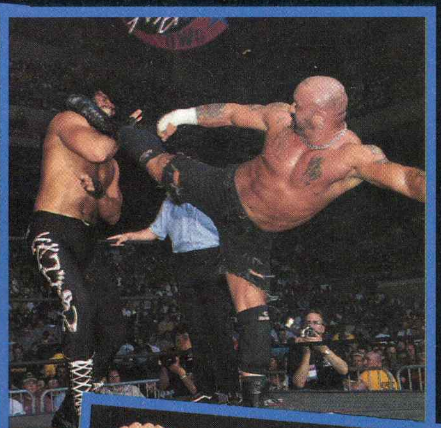
WINNER: BOOKER T. BY PINFALL











SATURN VS KANYON

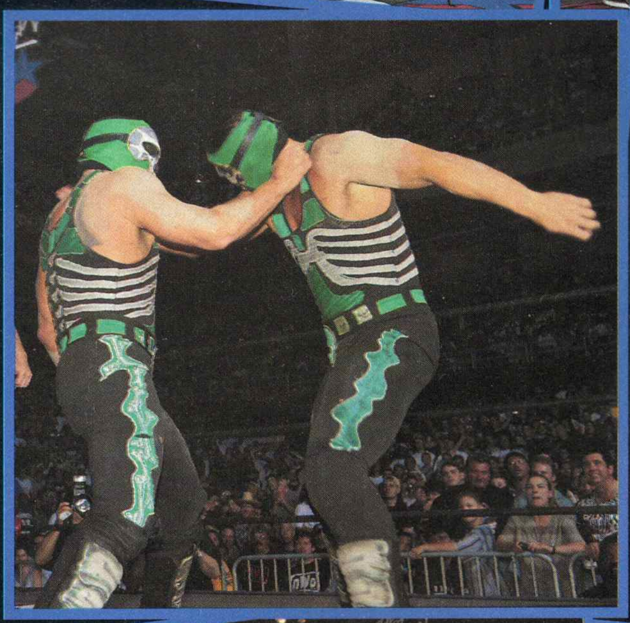
As "Mortis" made his way down the ramp, Saturn was taken off guard as Kanyon (formerly Mortis) jumped him from behind. Kanyon, the master of sneak attacks, went after Saturn immediately with an intensity of a man with a score to settle. Kidman and Lodi ran out to help Saturn but were taken out immediately by Kanyon. Remembering that he was refused admission to the Flock, Kanyon was ready and willing to take on all Flock members to vent his hurt and anger.

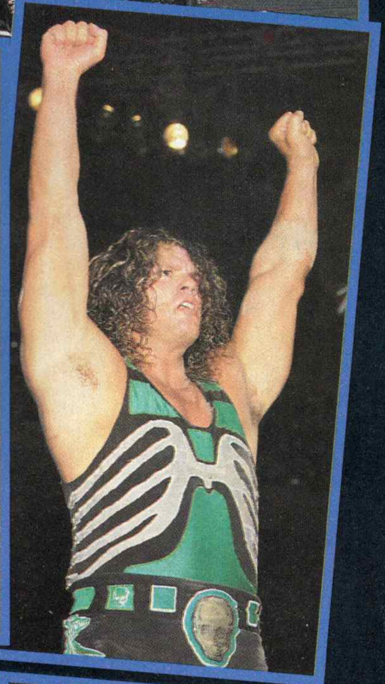
Saturn fired off several kicks, then whipped Kanyon into the turnbuckle while the entire Flock surrounded the ring, taking shots at Kanyon whenever possible. Saturn, who had previously denounced the Flock, jumped over the top rope and flattened the Flock members, reminding them that their help was neither wanted nor needed.

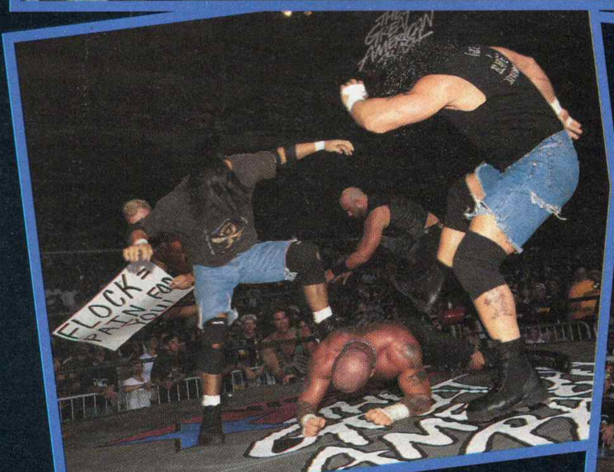
As the Flock was ordered back to the locker room, Saturn was bringing a chair into the ring. Setting it up, he used it as a springboard to drop kick Kanyon, then, in an awesome move, hopped the chair and moonsaulted off the ropes, flattening Kanyon. Despite their exhaustion, neither man would submit, and neither would allow a pin. Up on the top rope, the two continued their fight, resulting in Kanyon falling from the top and hitting his head and back on the ring on the way down. Saturn smelled victory. However, two Mortis lookalikes came to ringside and started battling it out. Saturn was visibly distracted by the goings on, allowing Kanyon to deliver a reverse Russian legsweep on him for the win. (14:47)

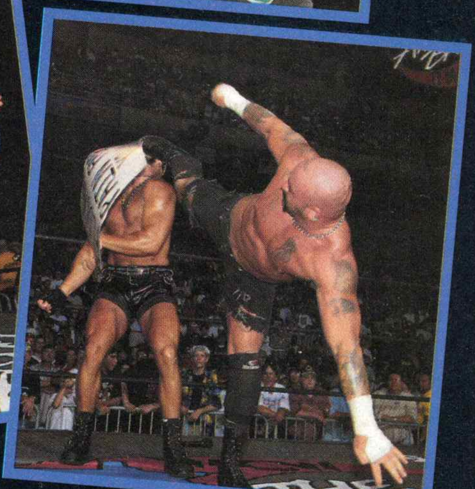
On the outside, Kanyon fell victim to an Evenflow DDT by one of the "Mortis'." Raven then revealed himself as the man behind the mask. Yelling to Saturn for losing, Raven belittled his friend and former Flock member. Saturn, a look of rage in his eyes, could take no more and went after Raven, who quickly escaped the ring and let the Flock do his dirty work. However, Saturn took out each member, belly to belly suplexing them and letting Raven and the Flock know that nobody messes with Saturn.

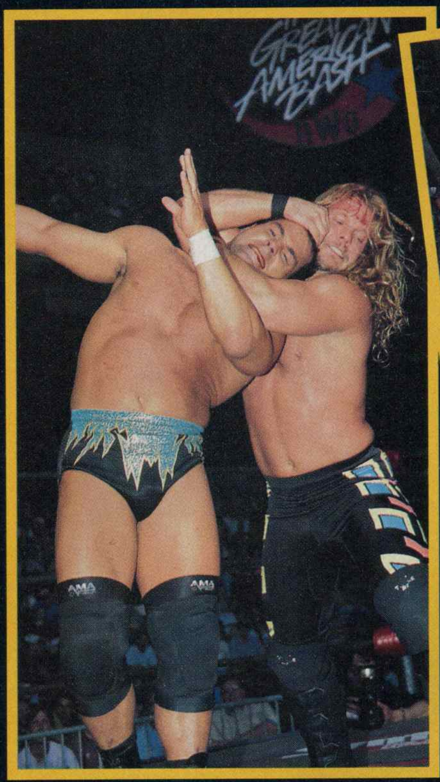
WINNER: KANYON BY PINFALL

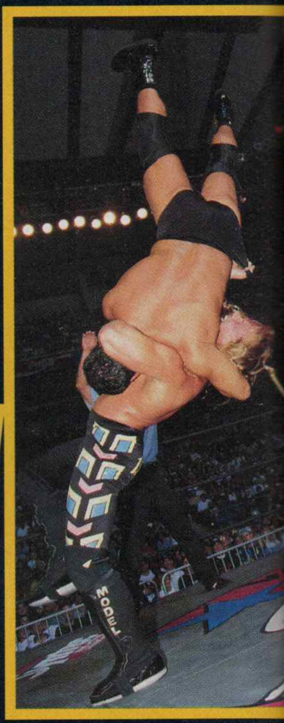


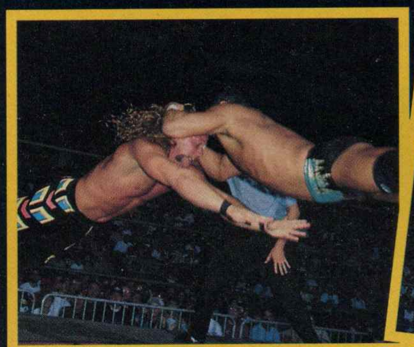












CHRIS JERICHO VS DEAN MALENKO

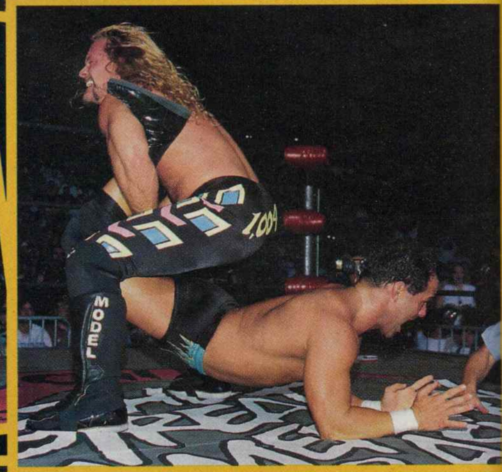
CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

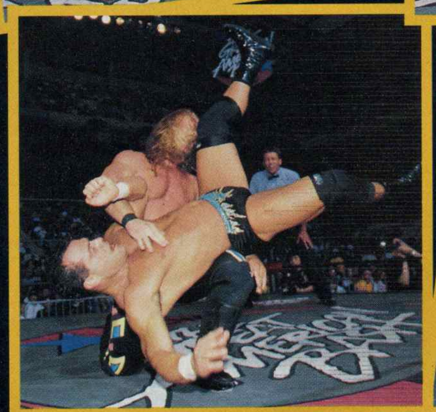
Due to Jericho's "Conspiracy Theory," the title was vacated and the two were to wrestle once again for the belt. A reluctant Jericho and a determined Malenko entered the ring as Malenko cornered Jericho and punched and kicked him until the referee had to step in and separate the two. As Jericho shadow-boxed with the ref and showboated, Malenko was totally focused on wreaking revenge on his nemesis. Jericho managed a sleeper on Malenko who somehow turned and elbowed Jericho, and slapped on the very same sleeper to "The LionHeart."

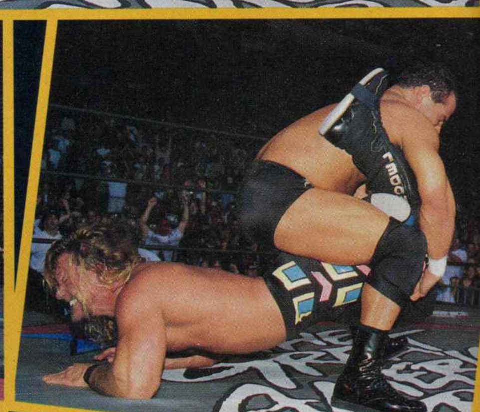
As the fans chanted Malenko's name, Jericho became distracted, missing a Lionsault. Up top a Jericho Frankensteiner flattened both men for the 9 count. At last, Jericho found his focus and slapped on the LionTamer in mid-ring. Malenko, in an incredible show of strength, managed to crawl to the ropes to break the hold. "The Ice Man" then got the Texas Cloverleaf on a surprised Jericho but, like Malenko, he managed to get to the ropes and break the devastating hold.

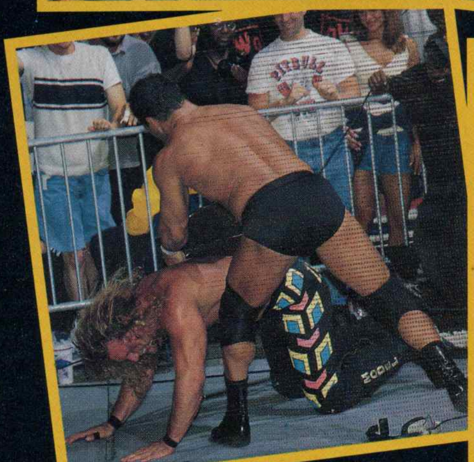
And then it happened. Jericho slapped Malenko in the face then shouted, "You're nothing, just like your dead father!" You could hear Malenko snap. No longer caring about the Title, Malenko went outside the ring and grabbed a chair, a look of fury in his eyes, and slammed Jericho with amazing force. As a disqualification was called and Jericho was declared the winner of the match, Malenko was relentless, punching and kicking Jericho throughout the arena, up the ramp, into the back room and even out the door to the outside of the building!! Jericho was helpless as the rage inside Malenko exploded. He did what any sane person would do when running away from the likes of Malenko — he ran across the street with traffic coming from all directions. Managing to get across the street, Jericho then ducked into a building for safety as security held Malenko back. (13:52) It was decided that since Jericho had won the match, albeit via DQ, he would, indeed be the Cruiserweight Champion once again.

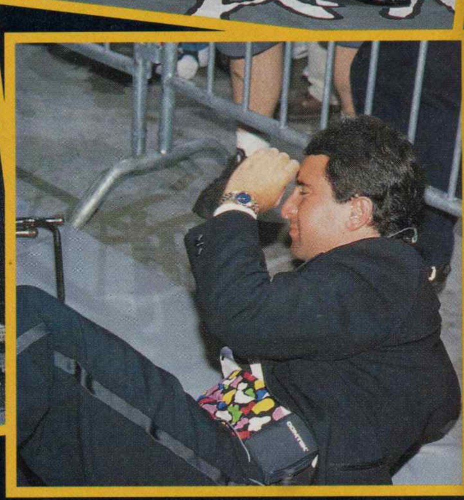
WINNER: CHRIS JERICHO
BY DISQUALIFICATION

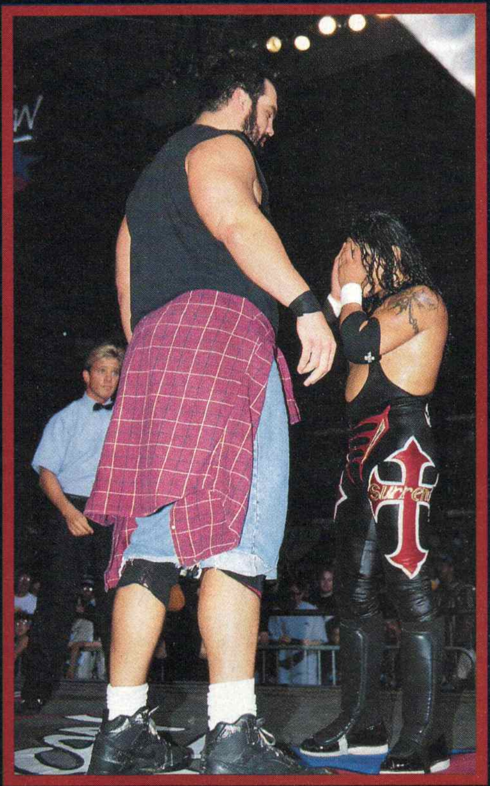








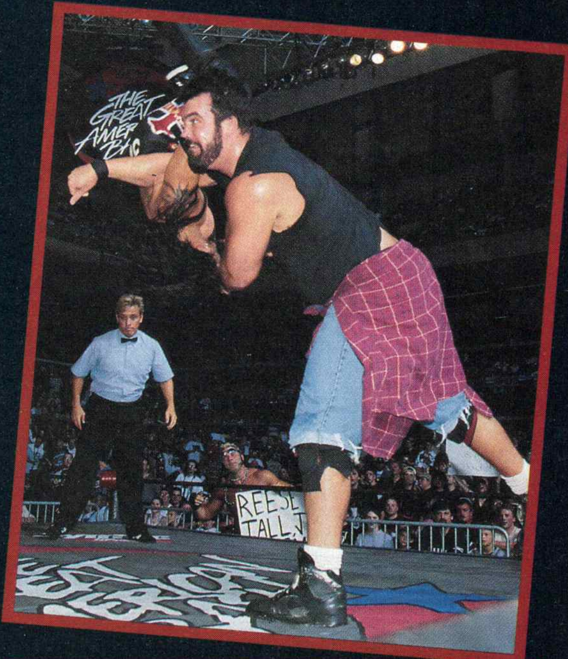


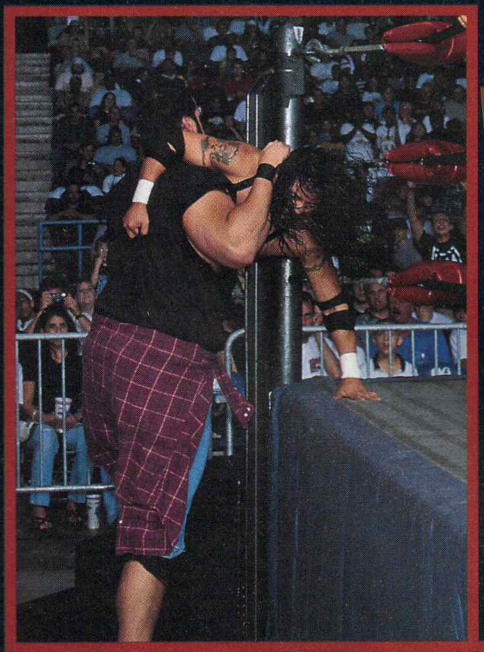


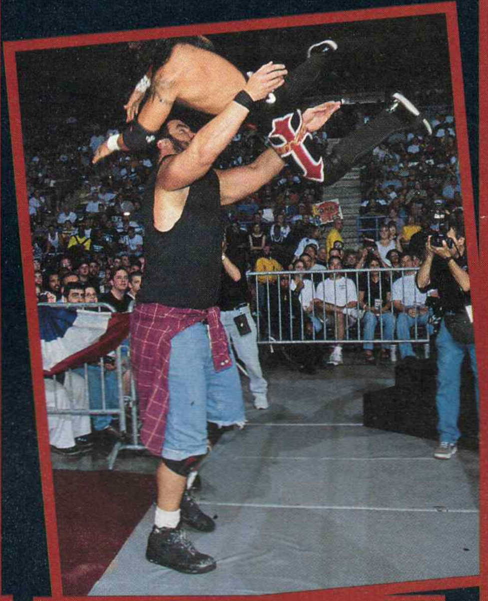
JUVENTUD GUERRERA VS REESE

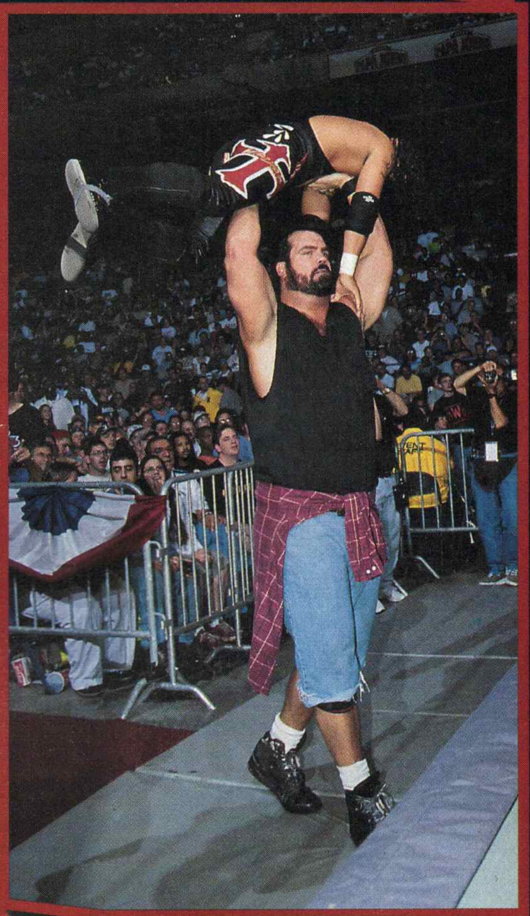
7'2", 410 lb. Reese stepped in the ring with Juvi, a small man with a huge amount of courage. Reese, figuring on an easy win, threw Guerrera into the ring turnbuckle and prepared to pin the Cruiserweight but Guerrera, time and time again, came back to fight the huge man. Juvi saw that Reese's knees were the place to concentrate on, and he kicked the big man's legs, trying to cut him down to size. Reese, picking Juvi up like a baby, held him high over his head and then stretched Guerrera over his knee and slammed him to the mat. Juvi's "Never Surrender" motto must have been swirling around in his head because, even after all the punishment he endured, he refused to give up, refused to stop trying to get the amazon down. Reese, the classic bully, went to the outside and got a chair, preparing to finish off the man who he had clearly underestimated. Luckily, the referee grabbed the chair just as Reese went to swing it at a helpless Guerrera. Van Hammer appeared out of nowhere and slammed the biggest Flock member with a chair to the back while the ever-annoying Lodi had the referee distracted. Falling like a tree in the woods, Reese went down, and Juventud covered the big guy for the pin! (8:46) After the match, Van Hammer, former Flock member turned Flock enemy, celebrated with Guerrera as Reese stomped around the ring in frustration.

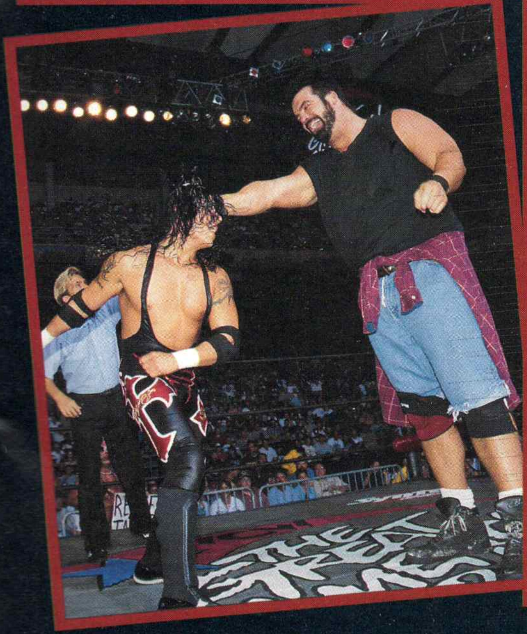
WINNER: JUVENTUD GUERRERA BY PINFALL

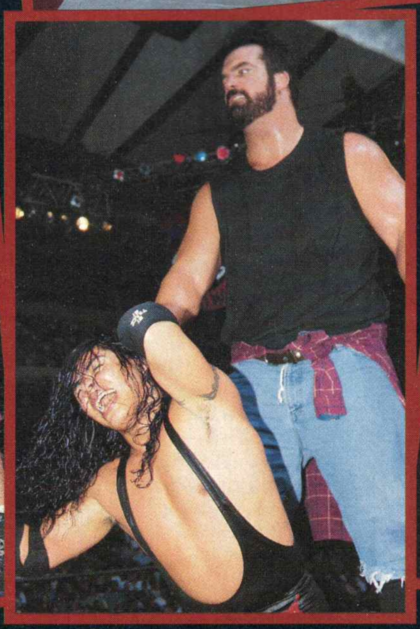


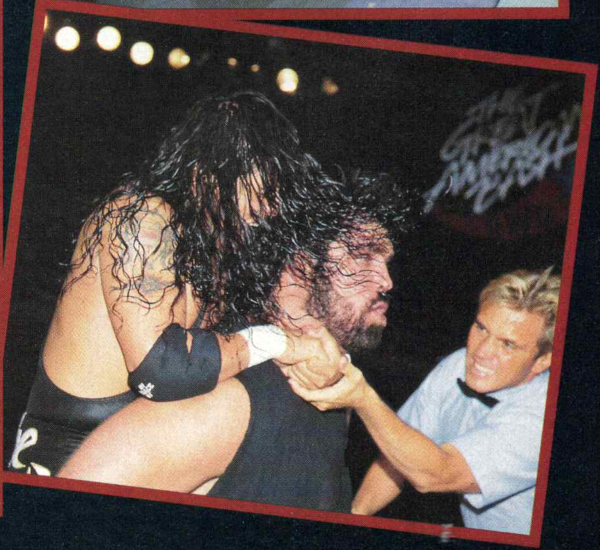


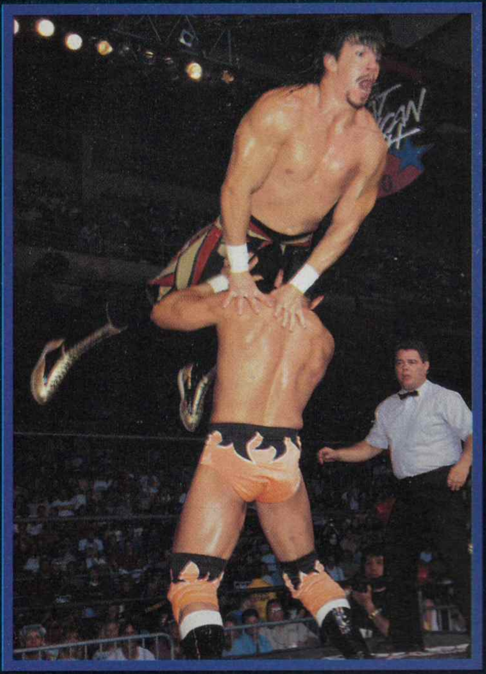


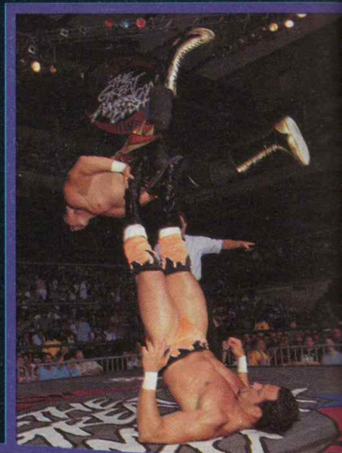


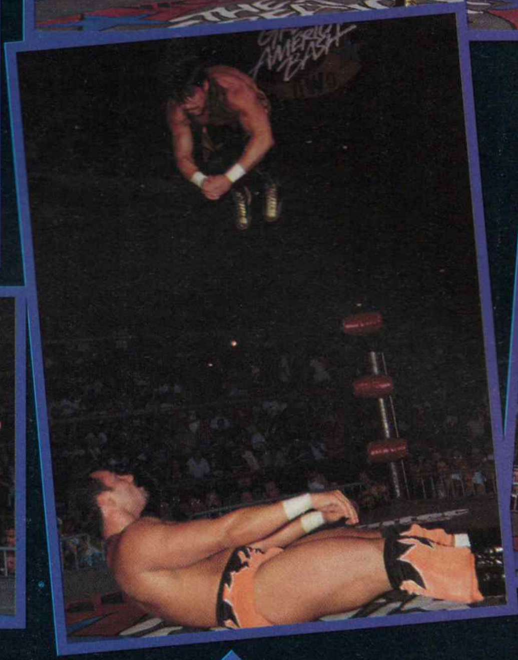


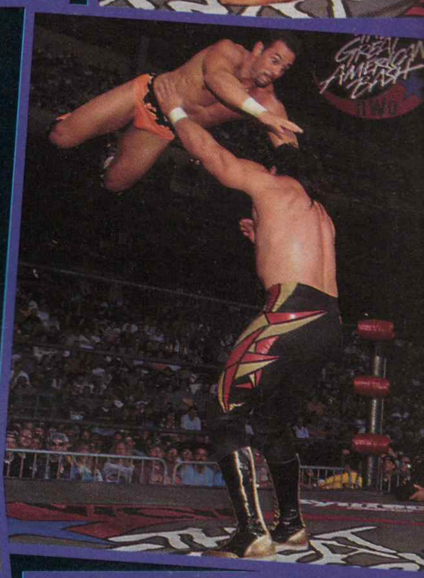


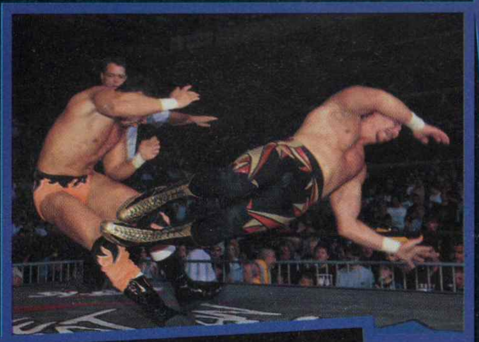


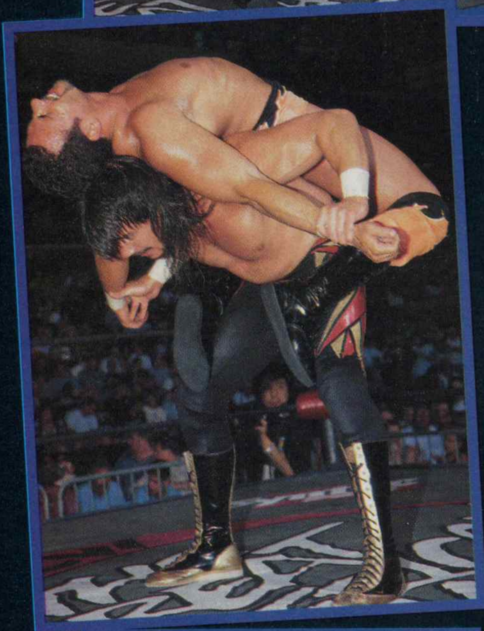












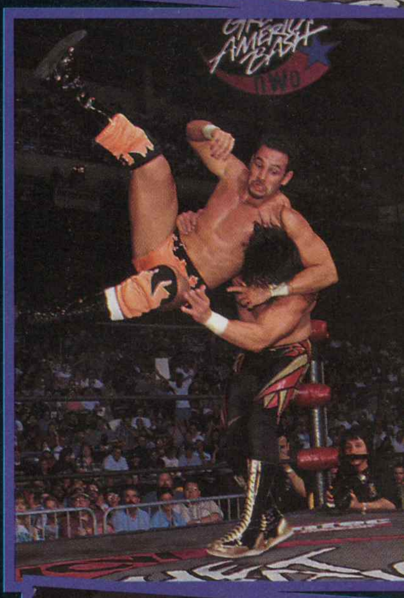
CHAVO GUERRERO, Jr. VS EDDY GUERRERO

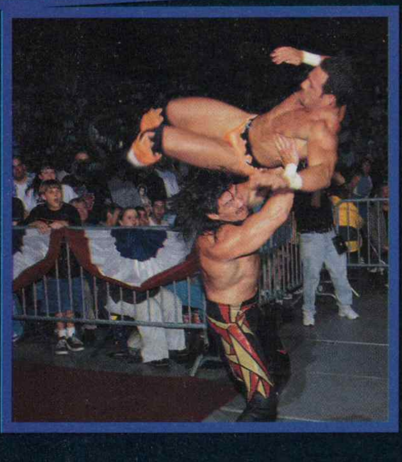
It started out as a great plan for Eddy. He would get his nephew to do anything he wanted. He got Chavo to wrestle matches for him. He got Chavo to wear a t-shirt proclaiming that you should "Cheat to Win." For weeks, Eddy taunted Chavo, in the guise of helping Chavo to make his family proud. Somewhere along the line, Chavo snapped. And, as the two stepped in the ring to face each other, it was Eddy, not Chavo who was the reluctant participant. An intense brawl ensued right after the bell rang and continued until the very end with Chavo taunting and mocking his uncle, as well as slamming Uncle Eddy's head into the turnbuckles.

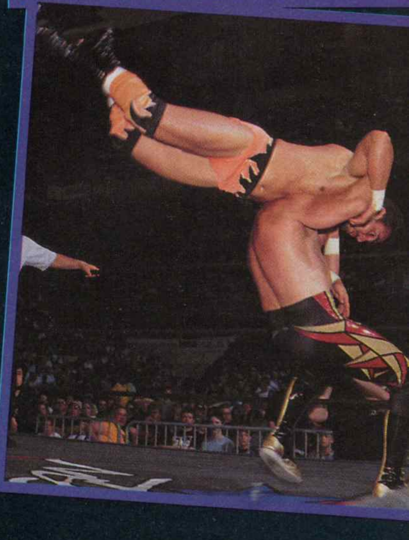
Eddy walked away from the match early on but Chavo was right behind him, pulling his uncle back into the ring. A Chavo moonsault to Eddy flattened him on the outside and Eddy, realizing he was up against a tough opponent, not the Chavo he knew weeks ago, finally turned up the heat. Smashing Chavo's head into the steel ring steps, Eddy then threw Chavo into the ring and delivered a spinebuster suplex to his nephew. Chavo went off the deep end, choking Eddy until the referee pulled the crazed Chavo off his uncle. Eddy skipped out of the ring and a mad dash ensued with Chavo hot on his heels as they circled the ring a few times before Eddy jumped back in the ring and hid behind the reluctant referee, begging for mercy. Eddy finally emerged from behind the ref to slap the figure 4 on Chavo but, in his state of mind, we doubt Chavo even felt the pain and no tap out was forthcoming. A Gory Special by Eddy was thwarted by Chavo, but Chavo then found himself in a chinlock. Again refusing to submit, he managed to send Eddy to the outside and then, in a quick, fluid movement, suicide dove over the top rope onto his uncle.

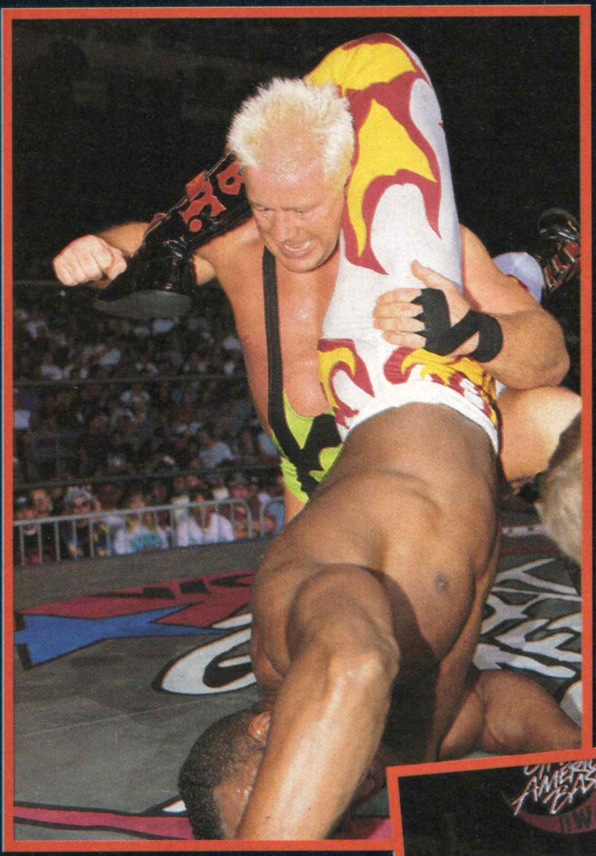
Back inside the ring, Eddy's Frogsplash was averted by Chavo who must have been expecting that move when he saw Eddy go up top and, at last, Chavo springboarded into a tornado DDT, laying out his uncle. Pulling Eddy mid-ring, Chavo covered him for the win. (14:45) We wonder if Grandma's proud now, Eddy?

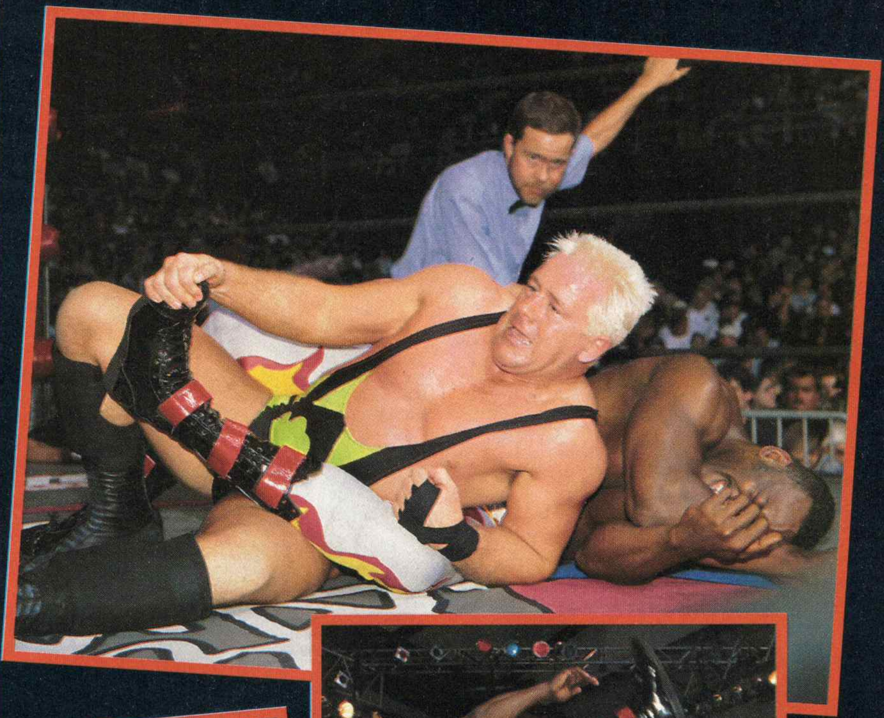
WINNER: CHAVO GUERRERO, Jr. BY PINFALL

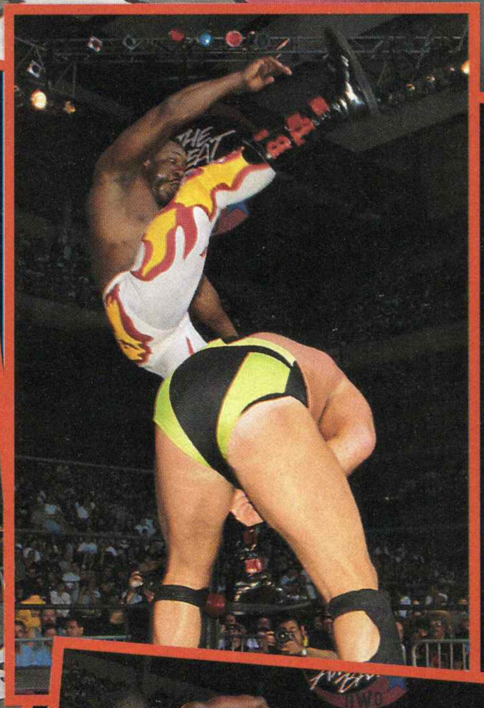


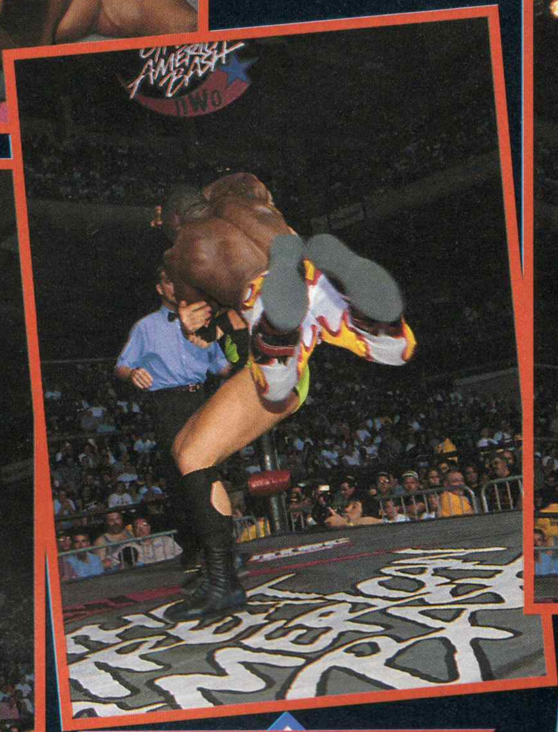


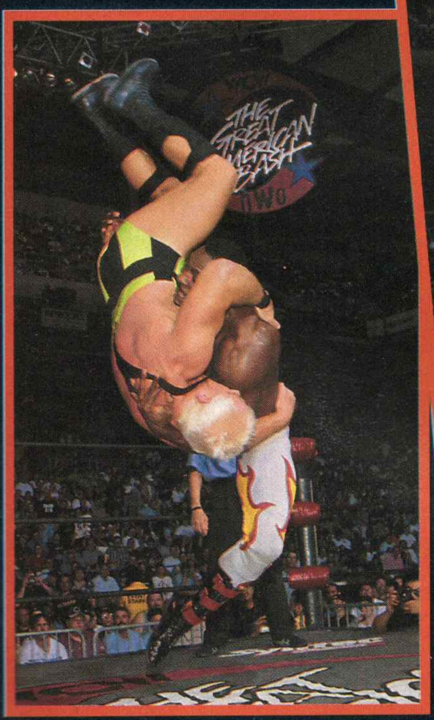


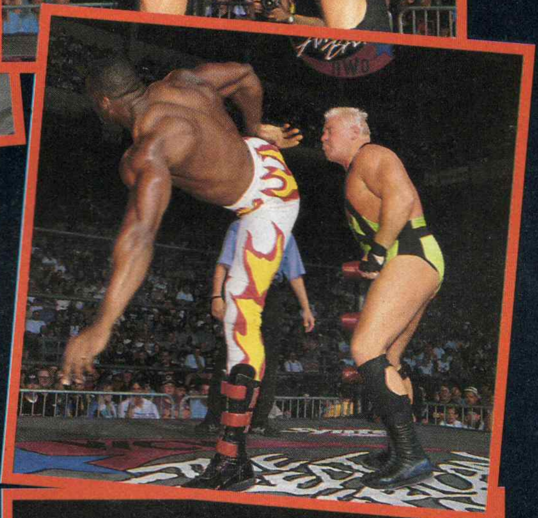










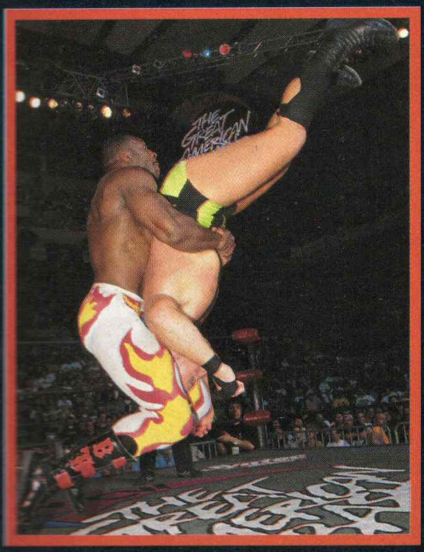


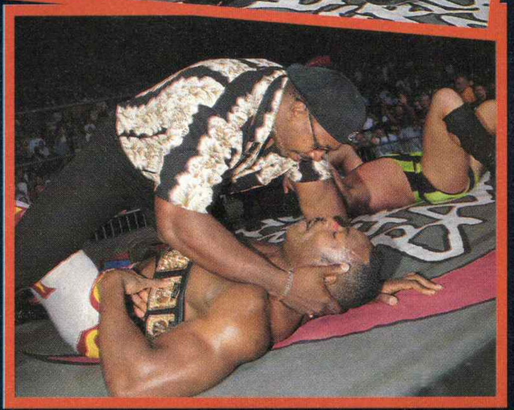
BOOKER T. VS FIT FINLAY

TV TITLE

Booker T. was back after only a few matches to rest after beating Benoit for the title shot. Finlay was ready to capitalize on Booker T.'s exhaustion as the two locked up and began an intense brawl. "The Belfast Bruiser" started out strong, working mostly on the mat, and trading submission holds with the challenger. Finlay then saw that Booker T.'s knee was injured from his previous match with Benoit and went for it, kicking and punching Booker T., with emphasis on Booker T.'s bad knee. Hooking Booker T.'s knee, Finlay went for the submission, but tough as nails Booker T. refused to submit despite obvious pain and injury to his knee. A roundhouse kick to Finlay gave Booker a second wind and a scissors kick sent the Champ to the mat. As Finlay was going for the Tombstone Piledriver, Booker T. managed to reverse the move and piledrive his way to the TV Title once again. (13:13) Stevie Ray then came out to celebrate with his brother, raising Booker T.'s hand in victory. On the surface, it looked like Harlem Heat was as unified as ever.

WINNER: BOOKER T. BY PINFALL

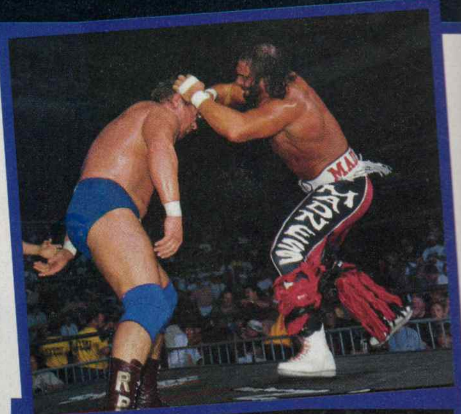


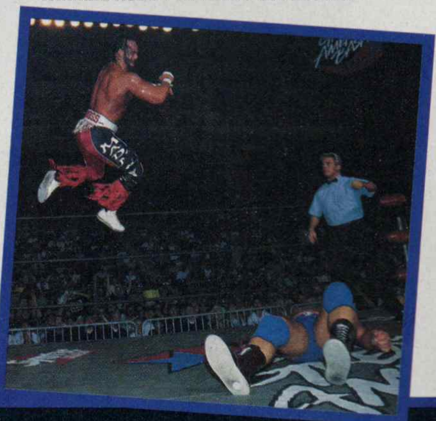


"ROWDY" RODDY PIPER VS "MACHO MAN" RANDY SAVAGE

On one leg, Savage somehow managed the flying elbow on Piper for a 2 count early on. Savage then turned on the referee, slamming him to the mat. As Piper clamped on the figure 4, there was no one to call the submission as Savage writhed in pain but refused to give up. At last, another official was sent in to replace the fallen one and called the match, pulling apart Piper and Savage, who was left on the mat holding his knee in intense pain. (6:41)

WINNER: RODDY PIPER BY SUBMISSION



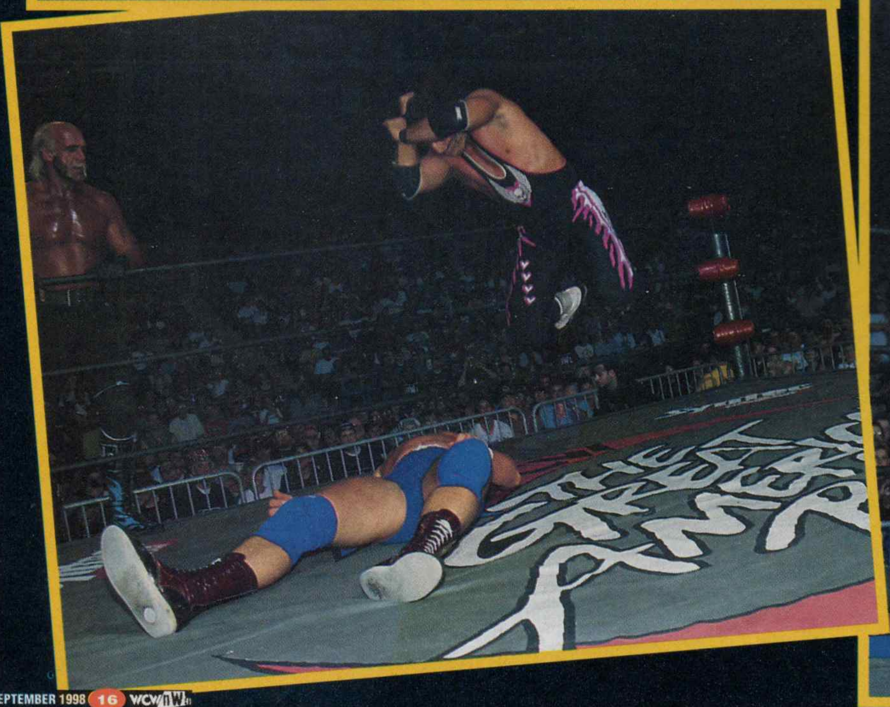


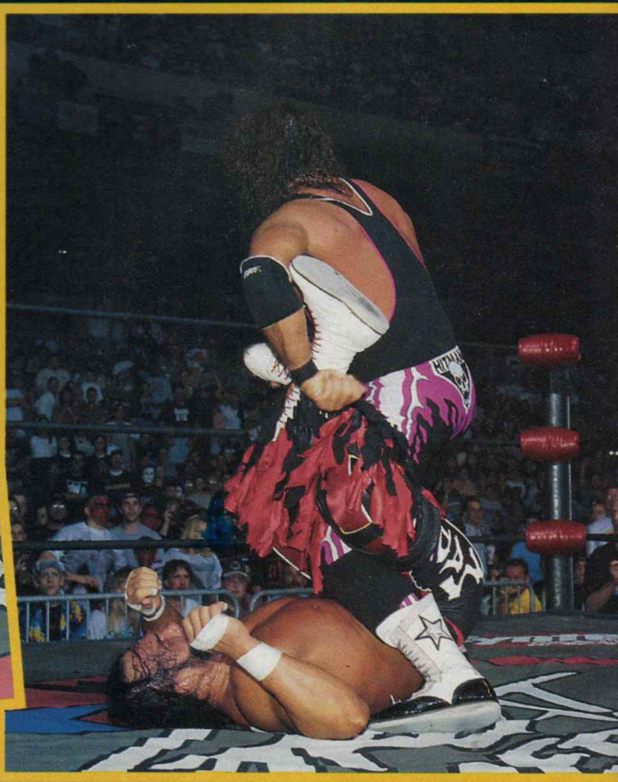
"MACHO MAN" RANDY SAVAGE AND "ROWDY" RODDY PIPER VS "HOLLYWOOD" HULK HOGAN AND BRET "HITMAN" HART w/ The Disciple

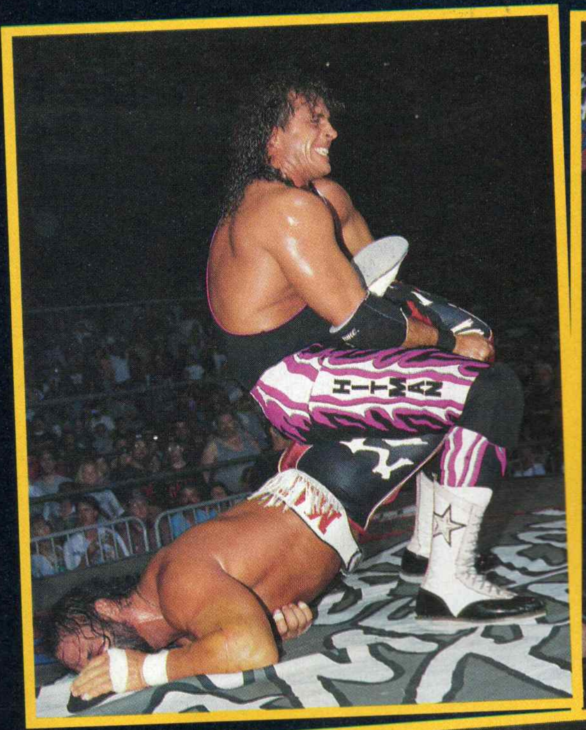
In what was billed a "Legends United against Legends United" match, these four men, none of whom were sure of the other's true intentions, stepped in the ring to battle it out. Despite the animosity between Savage and Piper, and there was plenty of it, they worked well as a team and went after "The Double H's" with focus. Savage took particular delight in dishing out punishment to his nemesis, Hogan. The Disciple, watching from ringside found the perfect opening and hit Piper in the back of the head with the Heavyweight belt behind the ref's back. Hart further weakened Piper as both Hogan and Hart took turns punishing Piper with kicks and punches. Piper managed to tag in Savage but to the dismay of "The Macho Man", the referee did not see the tag made and forced Savage back into his corner. Finally Savage could take no more. He snatched a chair, slid it between the ropes and laid it on a helpless Piper's gut. When Hart went for a head butt, he connected solidly with the chair, causing "Hitman" to see stars. At last the hot tag was made to Savage who took on both adversaries. As he went up top for the flying elbow, Savage's injured knee gave out, and he ended up writhing in pain on the mat.

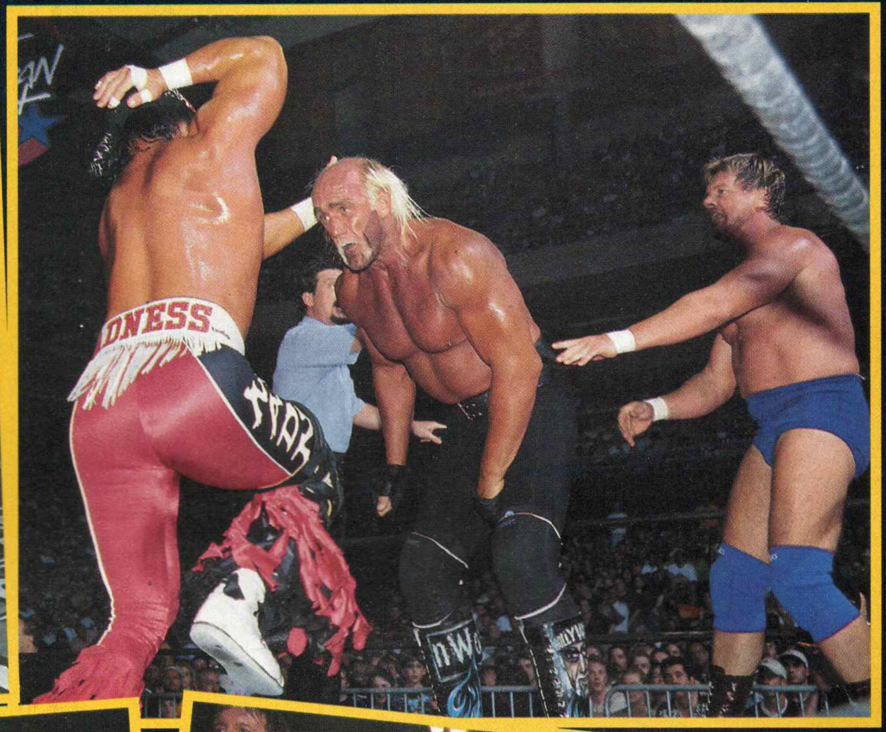
Meanwhile, The Disciple once again clocked Piper with the title belt on the outside of the ring. Hart seized the opportunity, seeing Savage in pain, and slapped on the Sharpshooter and the "Macho Man" wisely tapped out to avoid further damage to his already seriously injured knee. (11:42) Piper, seeing Savage in immense pain, tried to help his partner up, despite the fact that they were slated to wrestle each other next. However, the madness that is Savage refused help; in fact, he went after Piper full force, starting the match that Piper was willing to forego due to Savage's injury.

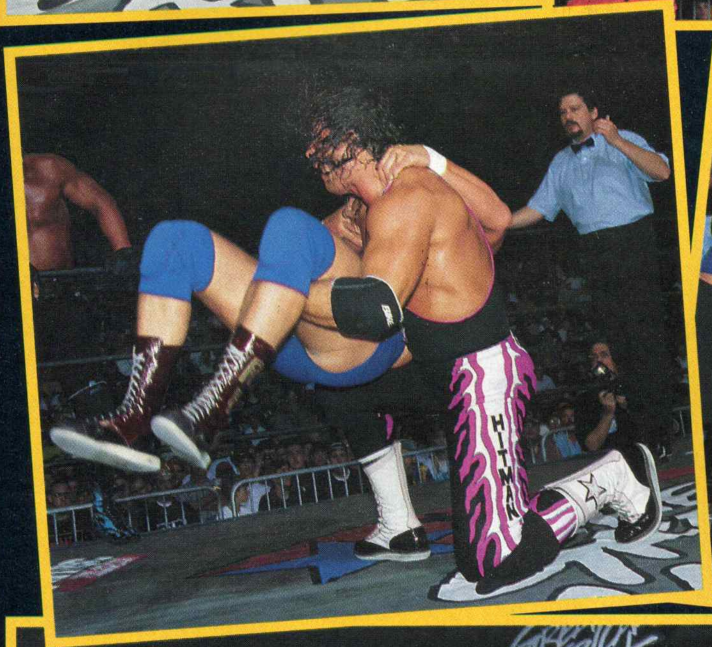
WINNER: HOGAN AND HART BY SUBMISSION

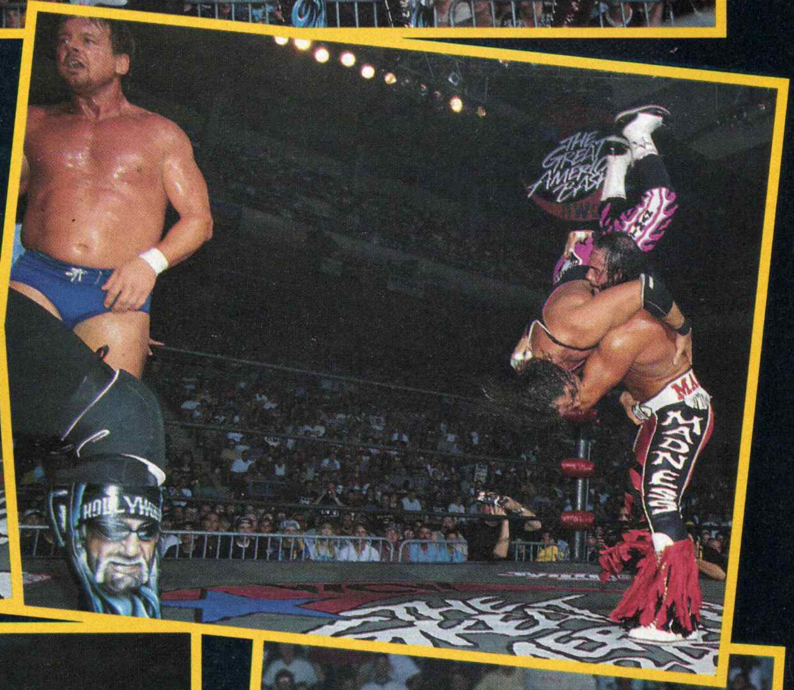


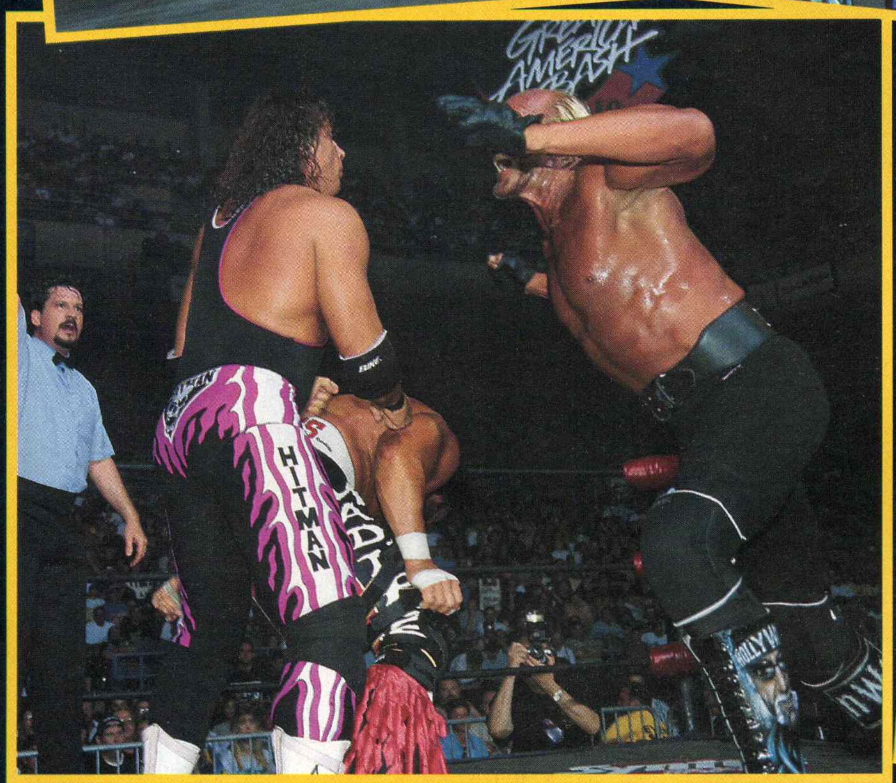







HITMAN

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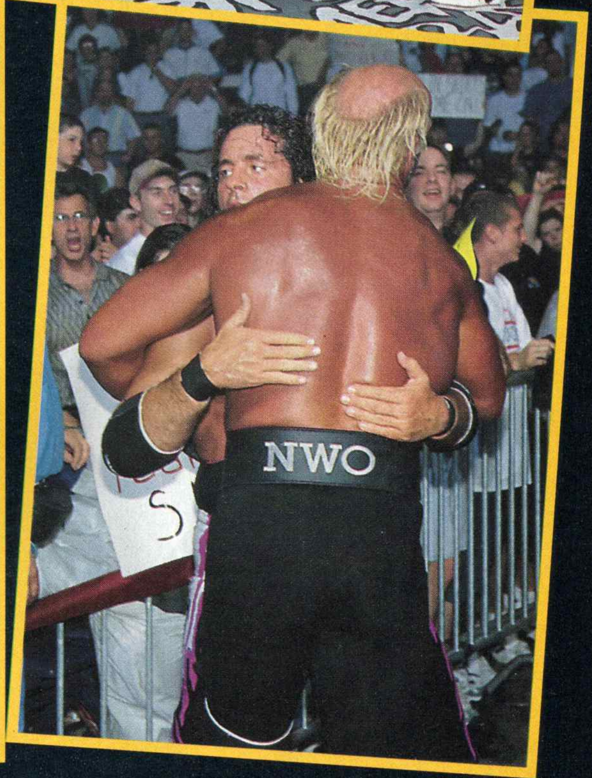
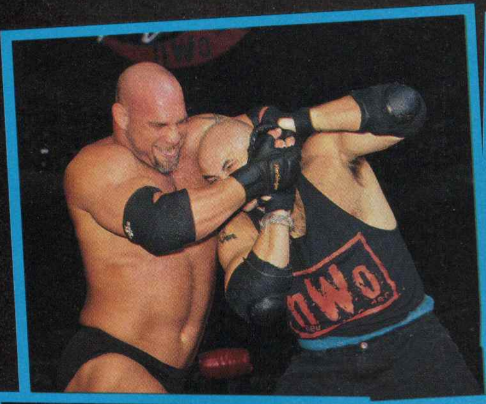
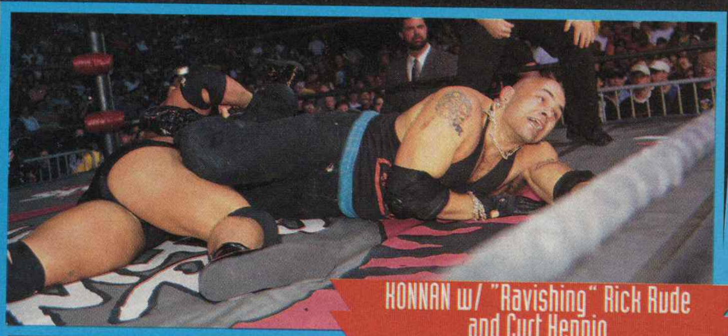
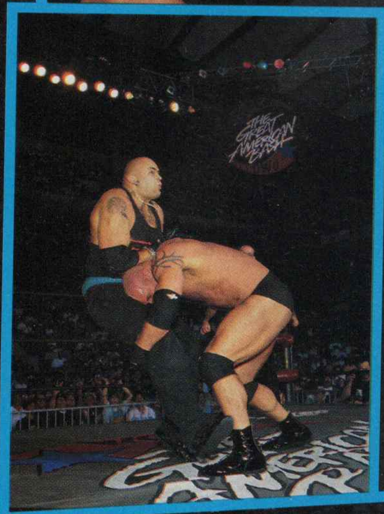

NWO





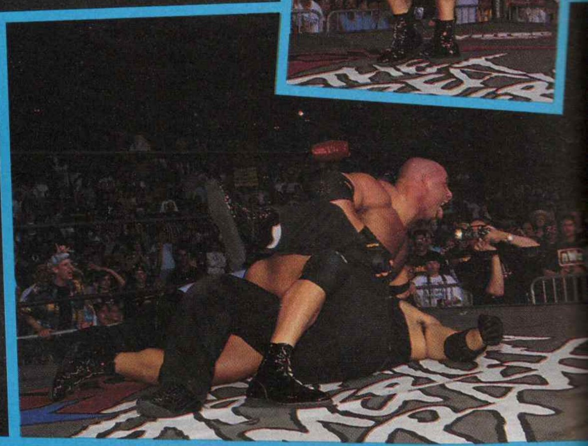
KONNAN w/ "Ravishing" Rick Rude and Curt Hennig VS GOLDBERG

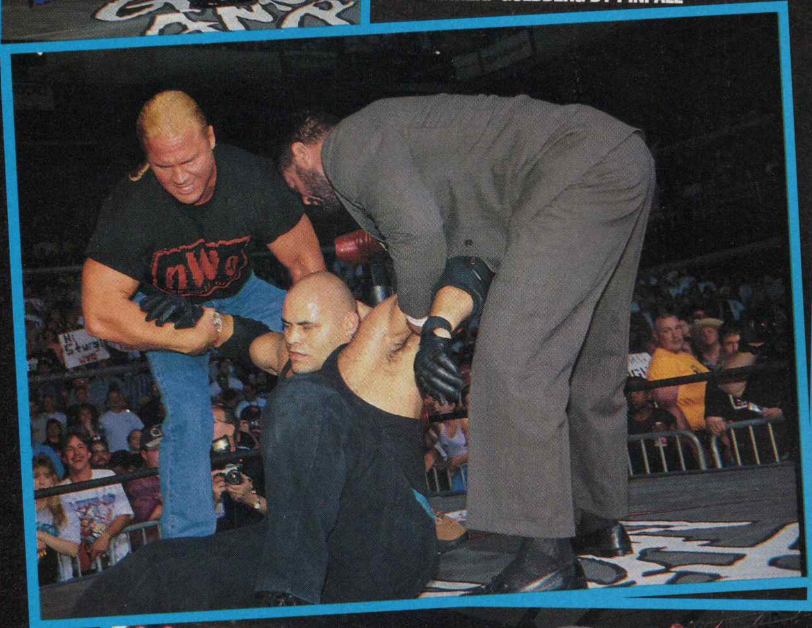
U.S. HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE MATCH

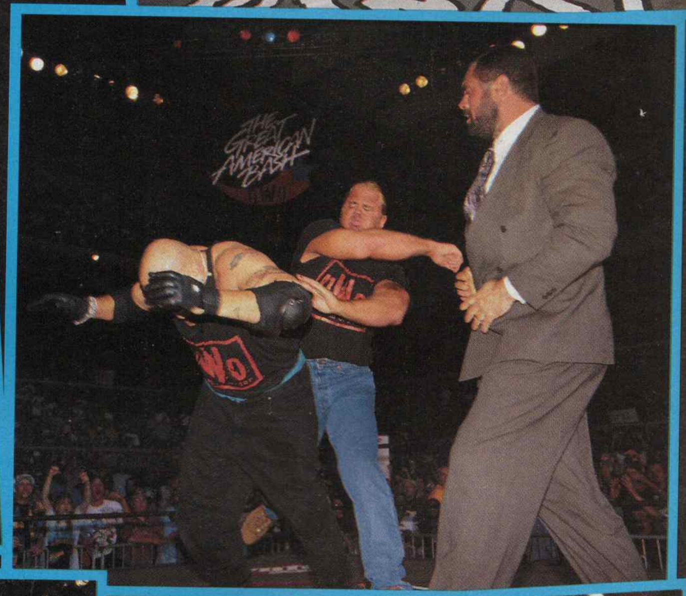


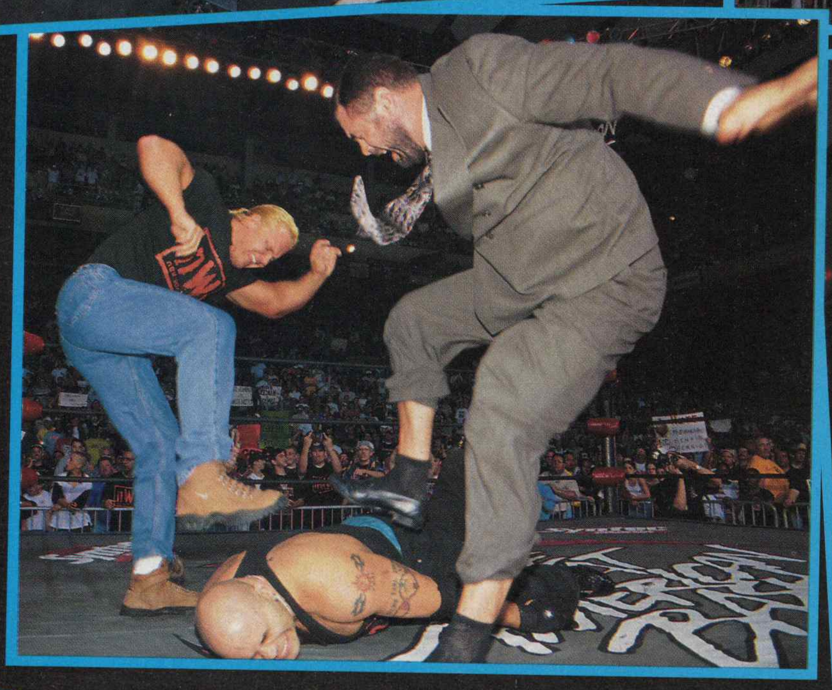
Goldberg was 99 and 0 going into this match and 100 and 0 coming out. Konnan, a talented luchador and wrestler in his own right, was simply no match for the phenom Goldberg. Goldberg went after Konnan immediately, throwing the Wolfpac member outside the ring. Back inside, Konnan managed to slam Goldberg with a bevy of punches and kicks before becoming a victim of the dreaded spear and Jackhammer in just under 2 minutes. (1:57) The real story took place right after the match as Hennig and Rude, Konnan's Wolfpac allies, stepped into the ring to "help" one of their own. As they helped a dazed Konnan to his feet, Hennig let loose with a slam to the back of Konnan's head and, Rude and Hennig continued their brutal beating on K-Dog until Kevin Nash and Lex Luger ran out for the save. Hennig and Rude revealed their true colors: black and white. Another victory for Goldberg, another act of treachery by Hennig.

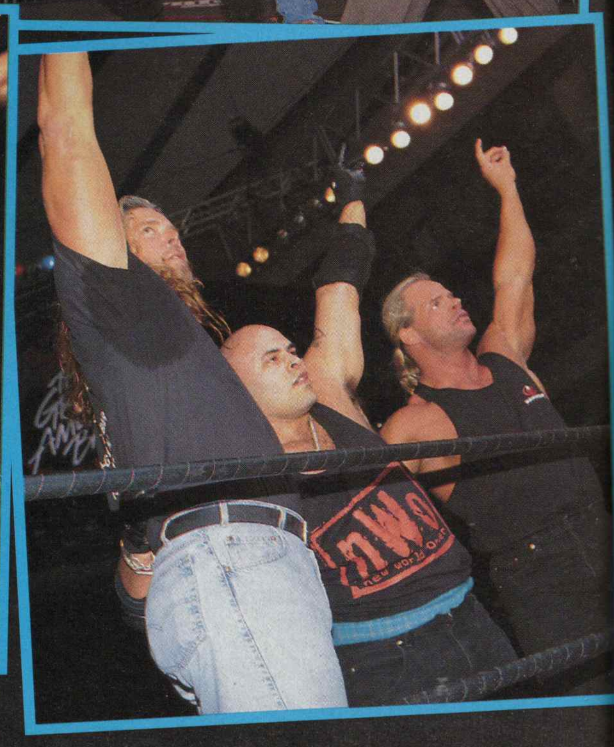
WINNER: GOLDBERG BY PINFALL

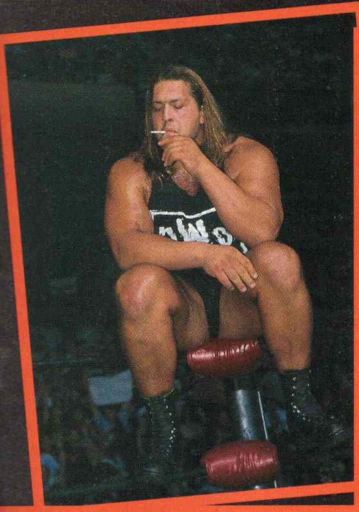










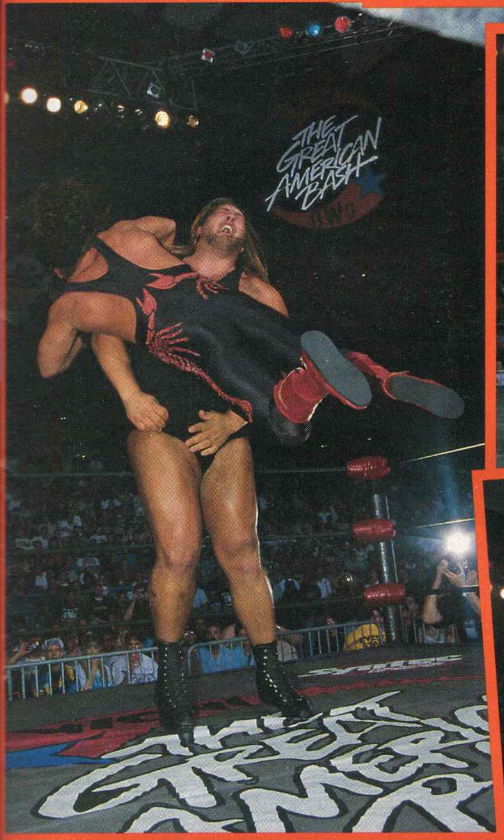


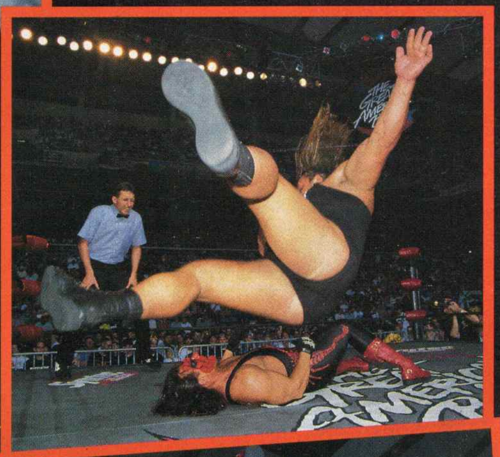
GIANT VS STING

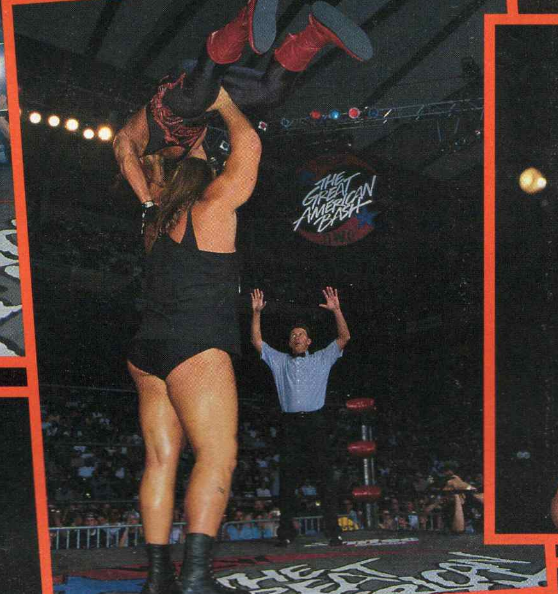
WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

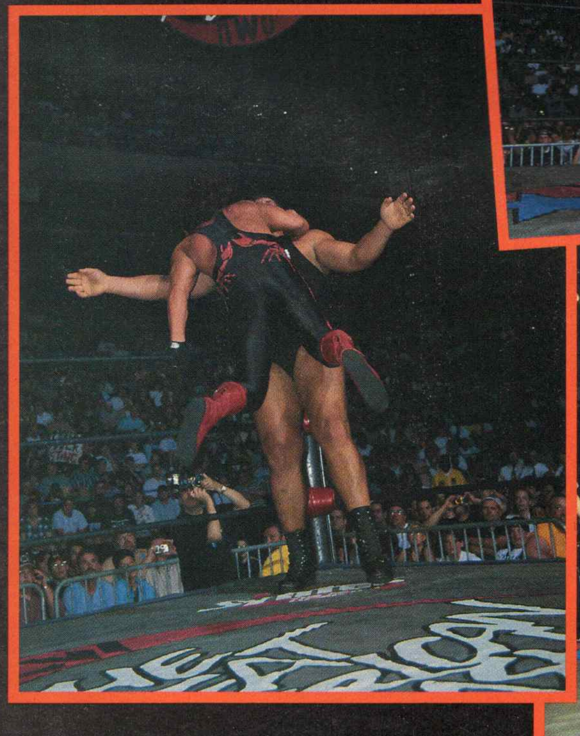
In a bizarre tag team title defense, Sting and the Giant, co-holders of the belts, wrestled each other for possession of both belts. Having split into two distinctly different NWO factions, neither man was willing to work with the other, so this match was signed to decide who should hold the tag team belts with a partner of his choice. The Giant made his way to the ring with a cigarette in his mouth and an arrogant look on his face. Sting, donning the red and black of the Wolfpac, endured Giant's blowing smoke in his face — for about a second. Sting immediately slapped Giant in the face and splashed him into the ropes. Giant, however, was undaunted. Lifting Sting high in the air, Giant then threw him onto the top rope and picked up the Stinger and bearhugged him until the smaller man nearly passed out from lack of oxygen. Somehow though, Sting managed to rally and worked on Giant's leg's, flattening the huge man. Two Stinger Splashes and a Scoopslam to the 513 lb. Giant weakened both men, and Giant was able to thwart a Scorpion Deathlock attempt. However, Sting managed a Scorpion Deathdrop on the big man for a 2 count. As Giant went for his patented Chokeslam, his knee gave way and he became the victim of another Deathdrop and another 2 count. Three was a charm as Sting mustered all his energy and delivered yet another Deathdrop to Giant, this time for the all-important 3 count. Sting would now possess both tag belts and would go on to pick a partner of his choice to be tag team champion. (6:41)

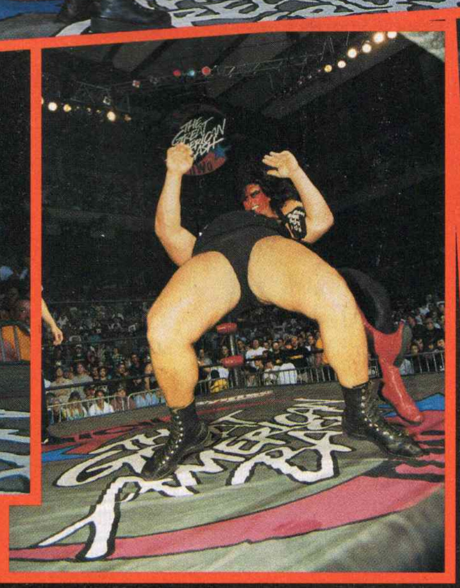
WINNER: STING BY SUBMISSION

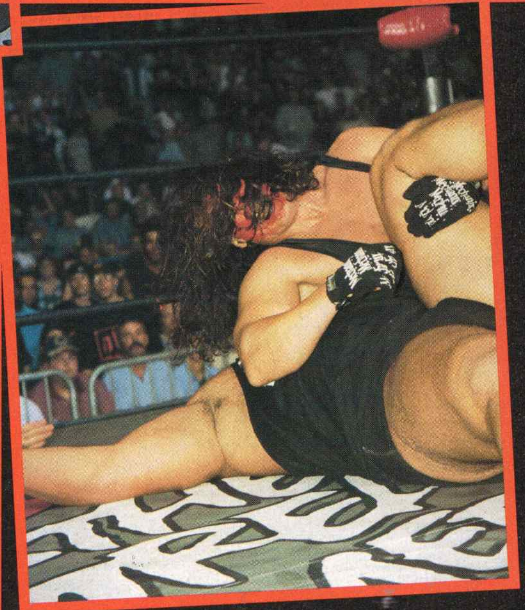




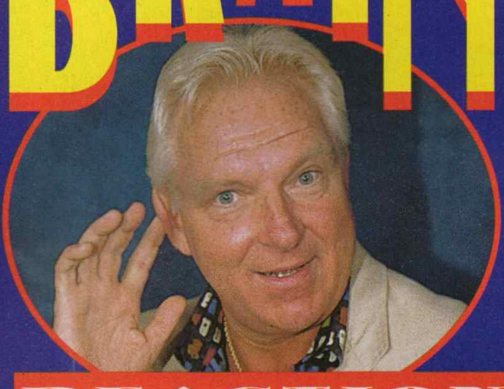








BRAIN REACTION



Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is the co-host of WCW Monday Nitro Live on TNT and Thunder on TBS. He also serves as color commentator on WCW Clash and PPV broadcasts. All the views expressed are his and his alone!

Wake up, humanoids, here's the news and views — mine — you can't live without ...

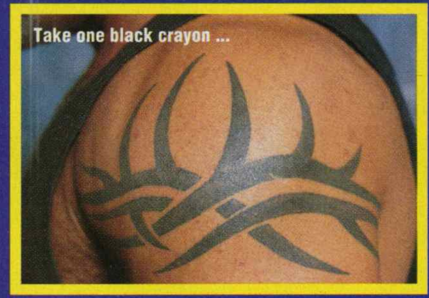
Alex Wright is no longer a Cruiserweight. In fact, some speculate he's trying to eat his way from Cruiserweight, past Heavyweight, into Super Heavyweight. The Sauerkraut Kid had trouble translating "Be Like Mike." Evidently in German it means, "Rotund Like Roadblock."

What the @#$& is going on with Chavo Guerrero, Jr.? He's lost it. He's nuts. Gone. Flipped. Outta here. Oh wait, he's a Guerrero, so that's normal.

"Hardbody" Harrison, who changes his appearance more than his ... socks, now has the word "Hardbody" shaved in the back of his hair. Isn't that kinda hard to see when someone asks him his name? And what about Saturn ... he now has "SATURN" tattooed on his stomach. Why? Can anyone tell me why he did that? Think about it, he goes to K-Mart (it's obvious that's where he does all his shopping) and shoves a couple of cans of Spam under his shirt. The Doug Dellinger-esq Rent-a-Cops at K-Mart spot Saturn, stop him, then, as they're reclaiming the Spam, notice his name. No chance to deceive in that case. I guess he'd just have to play stupid, which isn't too hard for him.

Here's an incredible case of "Mistaken Identity" for ya: During the June syndicated TV tapings in Orlando, Raven actually convinced a Rent-A-Cop that he was Diamond Dallas Page, thus was allowed to park closer to the studio. Seriously, how could someone, anyone mistake that slimy, gross, hairball freak known as Raven for that slimy, gross, hairball freak known as DDP?

I've narrowed the field down to Saturn, Raven, Diamond Dallas Page and Rey Mysterio, Jr. for the inaugural "Brain's Body Art Contest." As of July 1st, I have received 15,287 votes and it literally is thisclose to call. You humanoids have until Oct. 1st to vote, then the champion will be crowned. Yeah, I extended the contest since most of you have had trouble securing a spare 32 cents to mail a letter to me. Anyway, I will award the fan with the best wrestling-related body art (on him or herself) a three part grand prize: a year subscription to this rag AND an autographed photo from yours truly and one of his/her favorite wrestler. However, I must have a photo of YOUR tattoo to qualify. By the way for you humanoids who have been attempting to emulate Goldberg's tattoo ... please look at this picture for reference. Judging by your entries, I have no idea what you have been looking at. My best guess would be a bowl of spaghetti. So happy tattooing, humanoids, and send me those pics.

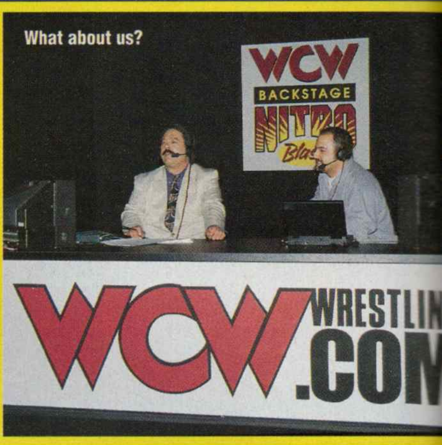


Take one black crayon ...

Need a new Spice? How 'bout "Jericho Spice?" Or maybe, "Das Spice" for Alex Wright. Or, "Hey Yo, Yo Spice" for Konnan. Or "Hoooo Spice" for "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan.

Lee Marshall continues to pester the WCW referees (and the rest of the world, for that matter) about their inconsistencies. But it backfired. The refs recently beat up "Stagger Lee" within inches of his life. Damn those refs — they never get the job done.

While we're on the subject of Marshall, I would just like to protest that he and his salami-breath pal at the internet site now have a better broadcasting booth than we, the real stars of WCW have. Fix it now, Crockett!

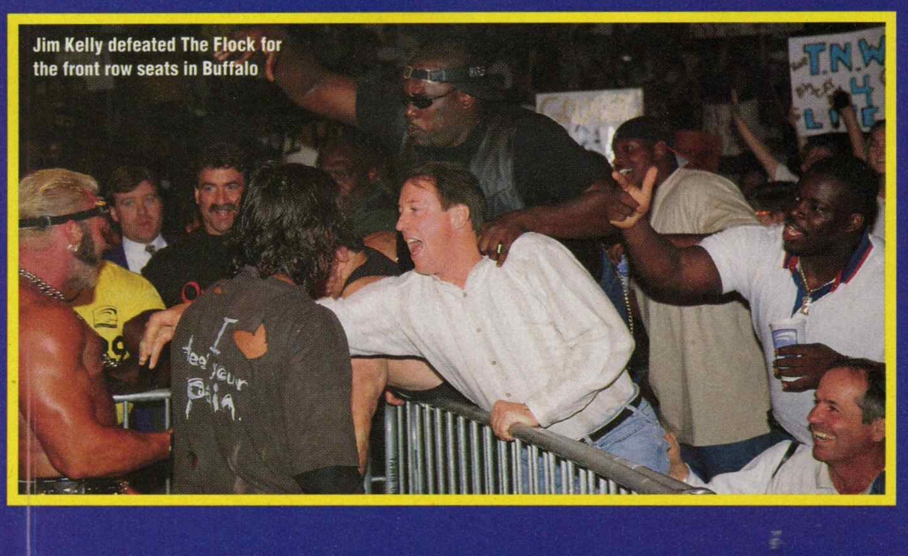


What about us?

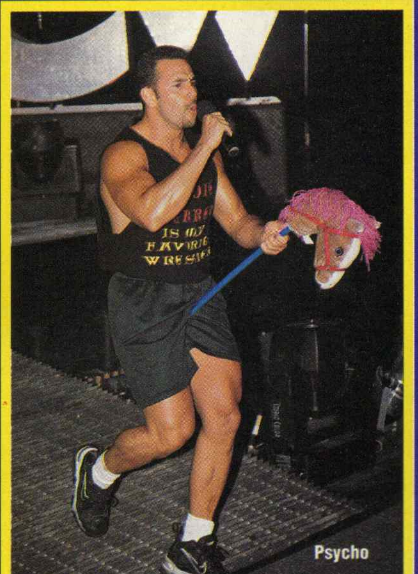
I want to update you about my pal Chucky Robinson, owner/operator of Chic Robinson's Salon for the Psychopathic. I saw him giving a hair pointer (yes, I do mean one point) to Gene Okerlund for his one hair. (Yes, folks, that is one hair on Okerlund's dome.) As I told you 30 days ago, Chucky ain't a natural blonde, and that's been really hard on his daughter. When she was a tyke, for instance, Chucky only changed her diapers once a month ... because the label said, "Good for up to 20 pounds."

It's that time again, my monthly report on the ultimate moron in WCW, ring announcer David Penzer. I mean, when I say this kid is stupid, he's even surpassed Rey Mysterio, Jr., Kidman and Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart. Just consider:

- I saw David typing away at his computer the other day ... and he was using white out on the screen to erase typos.
- At The Great American Bash, he asked me to help him eat some pickles ... because he couldn't get his head inside the jar.
- Check out those $13 penny loafers Penzer wears to the ring. On each shoe, it says: TGIF. Why? So Penzer remembers, Toes Go In First.
- With the Godzilla rage running rampant, I had to ask Davey what his favorite movie of all time is. He replied, "Closed For The Season ... I've seen it 27 times at the drive-in." Finally, although I could go on for



Jim Kelly defeated The Flock for the front row seats in Buffalo


Psycho

a whole column about how nuts Penzer is:

■ I recently saw him sorting a one pound bag of M&M's. I asked him what he was doing and he replied, and I quote, "I'm alphabetizing them."

Karl Malone was the best bartender in the world. I loved him and really wish NBC TV hadn't cancelled Cheers.

With all the recent talk about who the world's bravest man is, I decided to investigate the matter for myself and here is my ruling. The world's bravest man is the Mohel who performed Goldberg's bris, especially as Goldberg was 27 at the time. My man Woodrow traced this brave chap, but he declined an interview because he was still upset by the insignificance of the tip!

Riggs and Reese attended an Arena Football League game in June, as Orlando visited Tampa. That's a fact, but who cares — about Riggs, Reese or the league.

Did you see the four page spread about my tour through Indianapolis in the last issue of WCW/nWo Magazine? I thought it was good, but should have been at least six or eight pages. Or maybe a whole issue.

THE MAN! Goldberg is approaching 5,000 consecutive wins without a loss. What?! You're saying he's still in the one hundreds ... well, yeah, but he's on his way to 5,000. Man are you stupid!

The more I talk to Sick Boy, the more I like him.

The less I talk to Sick Boy, the more I like him.

I wonder if Dean Malenko and Chavo Guerrero, Jr. have been hanging out together of late. I mean, seriously, they're both a bit goofy, to put it mildly. Ciclope was injured at the June Worldwide TV tapings, so Dean Malenko went to the hospital.

Ref's revenge

Penzer the Goof

I wish someone would wipe, or whack, that smirk off Bret Hart's face. He really has become annoying, irritating, out of control.

Why doesn't Stevie Ray dress as GQ-like as his brother?

Why doesn't Brian Adams ever smile?

Why does Kidman scratch?

"Rowdy" Roddy Piper was so proud of himself — he finished his first jigsaw puzzle in only two months; after all, the box said 2-5 years.

Perhaps you've noticed that Rey Mysterio, Jr., during his knee rehabilitation, put on a few pounds. My man Woody reports it's from his daily diet of pizza. Pepperoni, Woody said. I also have snooped, I mean, learned that Mysterio would be at the 200 pound mark, but ... when he ordered a medium pizza, the clerk asked him how many pieces he'd like to have it cut into: six or 12. Mysterio replied, "Oh, goodness, six please ... I don't think I could ever eat 12."

During Thunder in Buffalo, NY, Jim Kelly and the rest of his Buffalo Bills got into several altercations with the Flock. Why, I hear you ask. Well the Flock were upset that the Bills had stolen their prime seats.

Lodi also annoyed the ultimate losers with his inventive, but truthful signs. He pointed out that Buffalo never win. A cruel but true fact. He also informed Mr. Kelly that Harbaugh is a far better quarterback than he was. Yet again, a fact that everyone, except Mr. Kelly would agree with. If Kelly has a problem with Lodi, perhaps he should step into the ring and settle things WCW-style.

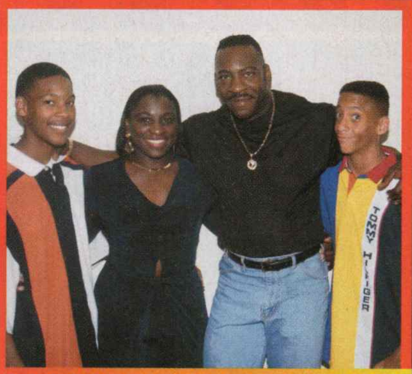
There was a dead bird at the backstage entrance to The Ice Palace in Tampa, when Nitro was at the Florida city in late June. I pointed it out to Mike Tenay, and he looked up and said, "Where?"

I have the toughest job in WCW, or The NWO for that matter. I've got Tony Schiavone, Gene Okerlund, Lee Marshall and Mike Tenay as my coworkers, guys I have to deal with on a constant basis. Just consider one recent dilemma: Tony Schiavone wanted to go ice fishing; so, after reading many books on the subject and gathering all of the necessary equipment, he made for the nearest frozen lake. After positioning his comfy foot stool, Tony started to make a circular cut in the ice. Suddenly, as if from the sky, a voice boomed out, "HEY, TONY, THERE ARE NO FISH THERE!" Startled, Tony moved further down the ice, poured a cup of cappuccino from his Thermos and began to cut another hole. Again, a voice boomed, "YO TONY, THERE ARE NO FISH THERE!" Tony, now worried, moved to the opposite end of the ice, set up his stool, and once again tried to cut the ice hole. Once more, the voice yelled, "THERE ARE NO FISH!" At this point, the baffled Schiavone stopped, looked skyward, and said, "Who are you, God?" The voice replied, "NO, YOU IDIOT, I OWN THE @$#&! ICE RINK!"

That's it for another Pulitzer,

Bobby.

AT HOME *with* BOOKER T.

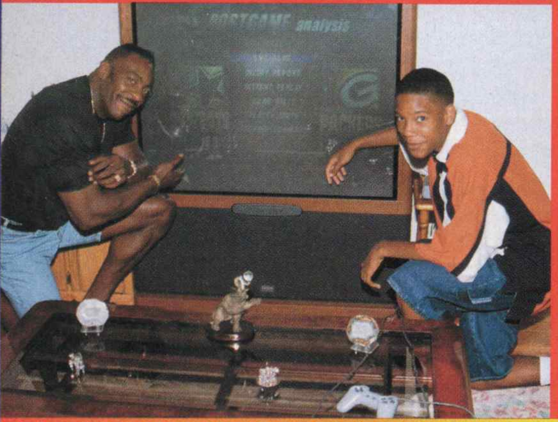


With a PlayStation joystick strategically positioned in his hands and his eyes focused forward on the big screen battle between his Dallas Cowboys and the Green Bay Packers, a team directed by his 14-year-old son Brandon, Booker T. plays Madden '98 — the fast moving and realistic football game from EA Sports — with the same drive that has carried him to 10 World titles (seven tag team, three TV) inside the WCW squared circle. Drive combined with a bit of Deion Sanders showmanship — yes, trash talking is ever-present in this family feud.

"I'm coming with a hard rush here," Booker T. barks, his team's defense as tough as, say, Pittsburgh's old Steel Curtain.

"That's cold," Brandon says after a play that, well, doesn't go as planned.

And of course Booker T. adds in his own John Madden-esq commentary, without even interrupting the game's flow: *"Deion's having one of the best games of his life — ya gotta love him."*



Booker T. is a master of the TV game. He has a 21-7 half time lead, even with Wade Wilson replacing Troy Aikman as quarterback after an injury. Sanders is Pro Bowl material this evening. Wide receiver Michael Irvin is incredible. Running back Emmitt Smith is as great as ever. In fact, Smith's 15 yard TD in the third quarter gave "B.T." a 37-7 edge.

"It's getting ugly," Booker T. said.

And to make matters worse for young Brandon, Booker T. is quick to view the touchdown replay.

Final score: 43-13. Booker T. gloats, insisting a photo be taken in front of the television. The win, mind you, was expected, he says nonchalantly. Brandon simply wonders why his dad won't go one on one in TV basketball.

"DID YA SEE IT?!"

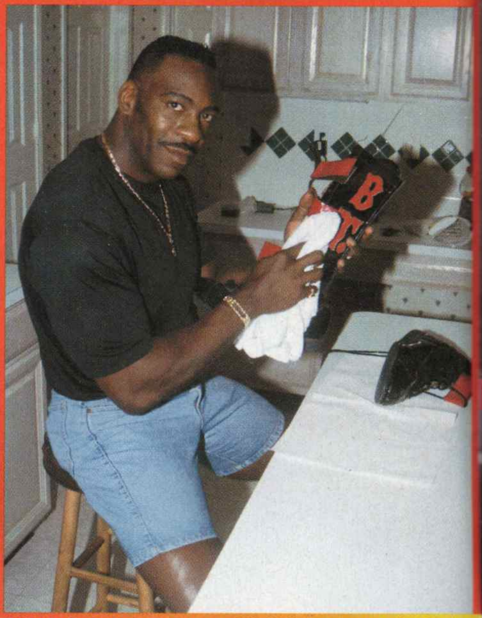
Winning, in and out of the wrestling ring, has become commonplace for Booker T.. So is the routine: Win, shake hands in congratulations on a good game, then look for the next foe.

"I'm teaching Brandon about the Game of Life, not just football or wrestling," Booker T. said. "That means you put forth all your effort and, sure, that isn't always enough, but, you must always try hard."

There are no freebies in life, no walks along Easy Street. At least not for Booker T., or son Brandon.

"When he does finally beat his dad, he will know that he won the match fair and square, that I didn't just let him win," Booker T. said. "And that's how things are in life too. I'm not going to give him any breaks in life, with video games, school work or girls. He gets no breaks because you make your own breaks in life."

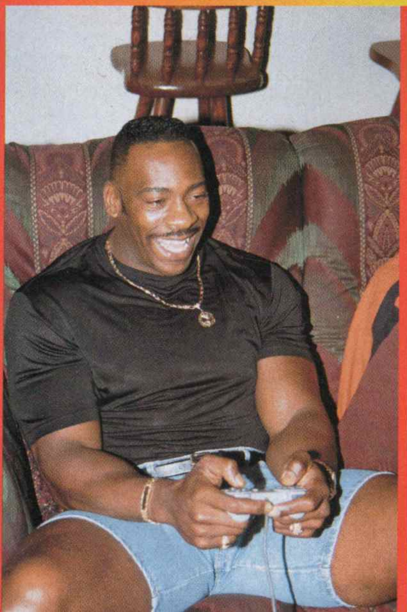
Video games are Booker T.'s form of relaxation, an out from the grind of pro wrestling. So is fishing, which explains the mounted bass that greets visitors to Booker T.'s beautiful two story home in a secluded part of Houston. (He claims it was a 10 pound bass, but, uh, that might be a bit of a "fish tale.") It was, regardless of its weight, caught last year in Florida during WCW's traditional Fishing Derby, held in conjunction with the TV taping sessions in Orlando.



"My free time is very important because, in the professional wrestling business, we don't have very much free time," Booker T. said. "When I'm out fishing, I don't have to worry about too much; I like that. It's one of the most relaxing things, just being out there, listening to the waves and watching the seagulls go by."

Booker T. is a three-time Fishing Derby champion, with strong competition regularly from referee Nick Patrick and Steve Armstrong, among others.

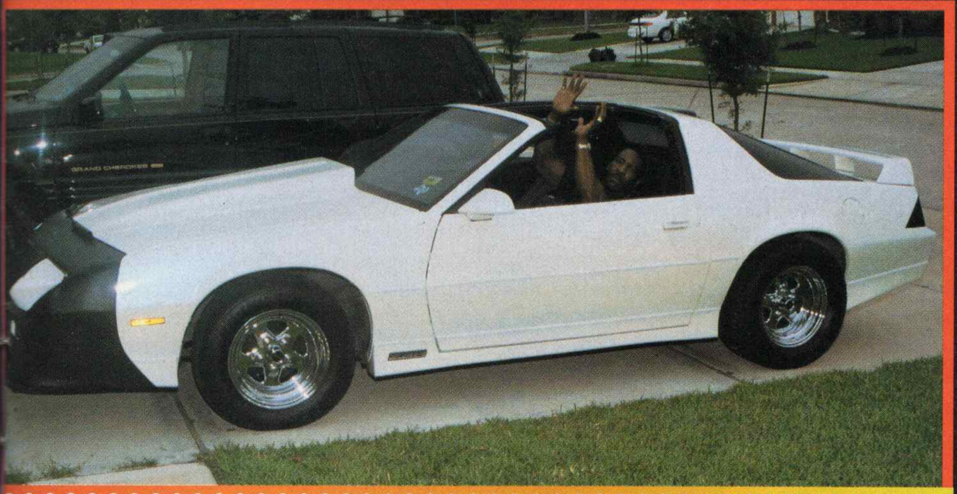
Booker T. is also a dog lover. He has had a cinnamon colored Chow (Rocky II) for 10 years and a black Chow (named Lex) for about two years.

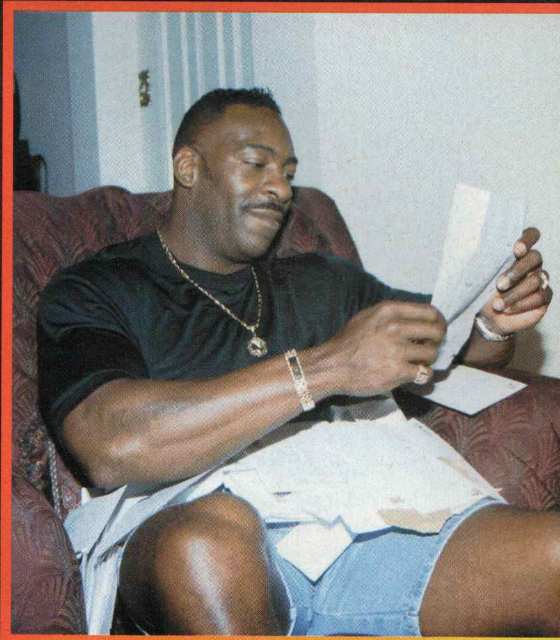


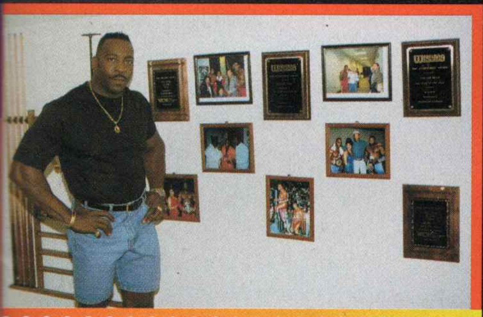
"Wrestling is just part of my life," said Booker T., who attended Houston's Jack Yates High School in the early 1980s. "I didn't think a lot about wrestling as a small kid. Growing up on the streets of Houston, I wasn't thinking about being a pro wrestler; I was just thinking about surviving. The way I look at wrestling is, it's just something I'm passing through in my life and when's it's over, I'm going to look back on a great career, but I'm not going to take it into the future."

What if his son wants to be a wrestler?

"I just want my son to be the best he can be at whatever he wants to be," Booker T. answered. "My father (Booker T., Sr.) passed away when I was 10 months old and my mother (Rosa J.) passed away when I was 13 years old, so, as far as telling my son what to do in life, I'm not going to do that. I just want him to be the best at

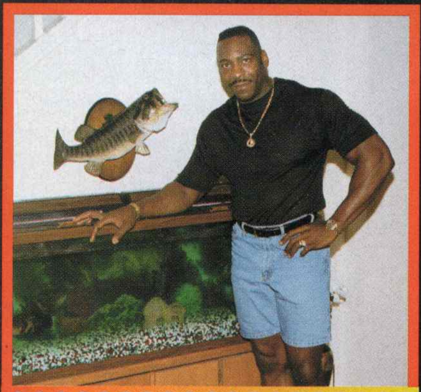






whatever he does. Whatever that is, so be it, just as long as he does it at 110 percent."

Booker T.'s wrestling roots are ingrained in the now defunct Global Wrestling Federation, which competed at The Sportatorium in Dallas. His first match at the fabled arena that the Von Erich family made famous came about a year after competing on the independent scene. Thanks to the late Eddie Gilbert and Skandar Akbar, who agreed to give Booker T. and Stevie Ray — then known as The Ebony Experience — a tryout.



"It was real rocky in the beginning; the fans didn't really accept us, probably because we were new and, in this business, the fans don't always want to accept something new," Booker T. said.

One of the highlights of competing in the GWF was area autograph signing sessions, even if you hadn't "officially made it" on a national scene. Once, for instance, Booker T. drove to The Summit in Houston for an appearance in a beat up '79 Thunderbird with expired plates and four balding tires.

So much for being a "celebrity."

A policeman greeted Booker T. and, when he learned T. was there to sign autographs for fans, agreed to park Booker T.'s beater.

Talk about embarrassment.

"Ever since, I decided that I had to get myself a nice car if I was going to do autograph sessions," said Booker T., whose wheels of choice is a white, 1986 Z-28. "My car now reminds me of where I came from."

Booker T. has his own Houston-based fan club and receives more than 100 fan mail letters per week. Slowly but surely he answers each and every one.

"My thing is, and I honestly mean this: If it wasn't for the fans, there wouldn't be Booker T.. The fans are the reason I go out and perform at the level I do each and every night," he said. "I really appreciate the support I have received over the past five years in WCW and I do care about the fans."

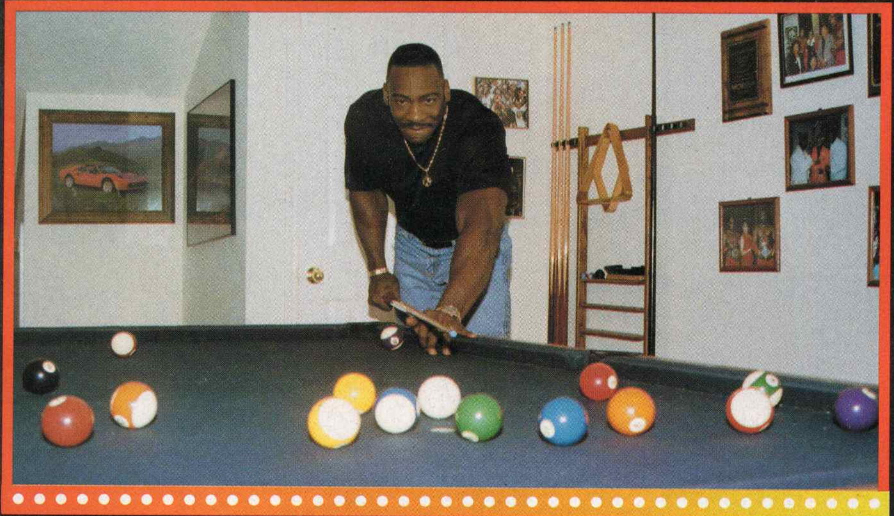
But what about his brother, Stevie Ray?

"I always say 'blood is thicker than water,' but, what my brother and I have is thicker than blood," Booker T. said. "Right now, we are going our own separate ways. He wants to be one thing and I want to be something else.

"The way we did things in the past, well, I don't want to do it like that anymore. My ability can carry me. I don't feel like I have to do anything underhanded to win matches. I just hope my brother gets on the right track. Hey, I've got a 14-year-old son. I want my son to be able to look up to me, which is something I didn't have when I was growing up."

Even it means beating him on video games.

"Repeat the score, 43-13 ... YA GOTTA LOVE IT!"



BOOKER T. FACTS

Wife: Levestia
Son: Brandon, age 14
Nephew: Kenneth, 15
Resides in Clear Lake part of Houston
Graduated from Jack Yates High School in 1984
Favorite video: When We Were Kings (About Muhammad Ali)
Favorite musicians: 2Pac, Bones Thugs and Harmony
Favorite food: BBQ

MY NAME IS...

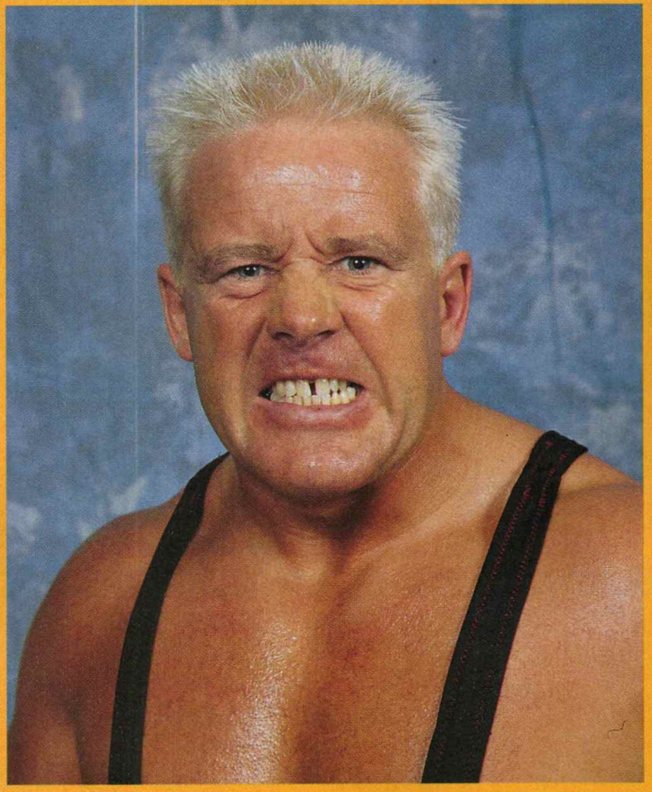
Pop Quiz. Who in WCW held Championship belts all across Europe and Japan and in fact, still holds the CWA Intercontinental belt from Germany/Austria? Need a clue? Well, his last name does not contain an "E" despite what the TV says when he comes to the ring for his matches.

Okay, we'll tell you the answer. David "Fit" Finlay, spelled with an "A" mind you, has a long and storied wrestling past that very few seem to recognize. Heck, he's still trying to get his name spelled right on the caption when he walks down the ramp to take on his next opponent. "It's very frustrating," said Finlay. "They can't even spell my name right."

For thoseof you who are wondering just who the spiky-haired Irishman who came into WCW and snagged the TV title from Booker T. a few months ago is, Finlay offers a bit of background. "Both my grandfathers were in the wrestling business. My father taught me how to wrestle; he was a wrestler and a promoter. My uncle and aunt were referees, my sister taught amateur wrestling and my son wrestles," he said, then added with a sly grin, "He's five years old, but I'm teaching him how to wrestle."

Born in Carrickfergus, Ireland (about 10 miles from Belfast), Finlay is not a project of a training school, nor did he learn to wrestle through special trainers. In fact, his father taught him to wrestle when he was just a young boy and, at age 14, Finlay was thrust on the pro wrestling limelight quite by accident. "I was a young boy in Ireland and my father was promoting. Some guy didn't show up one night and my father said, 'You gotta wrestle', so that was the start of it," Finlay said. "I had to wear my father's wrestling boots and things that were way too big for me and went out there and got the snot kicked out of me."

That experience led to more wrestling matches as young Finlay worked at perfecting his wrestling skills and learned to brawl with the best of them. And the Championship belts started rolling in. From Ireland, Fit moved onto England, where he wrestled for Dale Martin, one of the largest wrestling promotions in the U.K. at the time. While with them, he garnered World, Tag and British Championships. Moving onto Europe, Finlay joined the CWA, the largest and most respected promotion in mainland Europe, and went on to win several belts including the World, Commonwealth and Intercontinental, the latter of which he still lays claim to.



Finlay joined WCW for a short stint in 1996, then went back to CWA to defend his titles. "WCW invited me to come back again and I have been here since September of 1997," said Finlay.

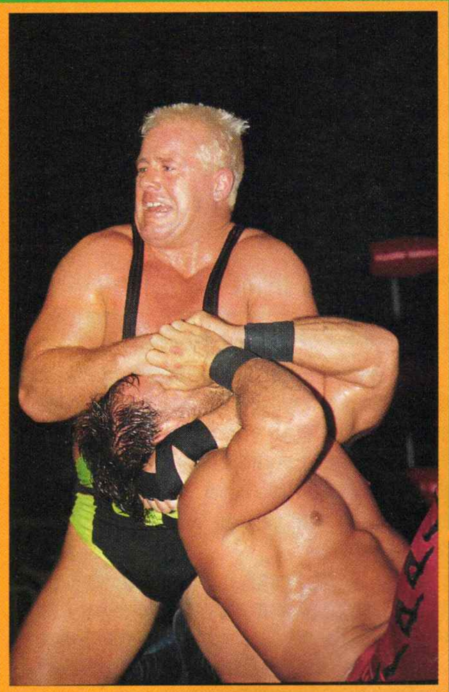
"They wanted me here but I don't think they really knew what they let themselves in for," he said, of the WCW Executive Committee. "My wrestling style is a lot different than the American style and they weren't prepared for what I can do." Indeed, many of the wrestlers were not prepared for what Finlay could do in the ring. Booker T., a supremely talented wrestler, lost the TV title to Finlay after a hard-fought, grueling match. Finlay lost the belt to Booker T. several weeks later at the Great American Bash.

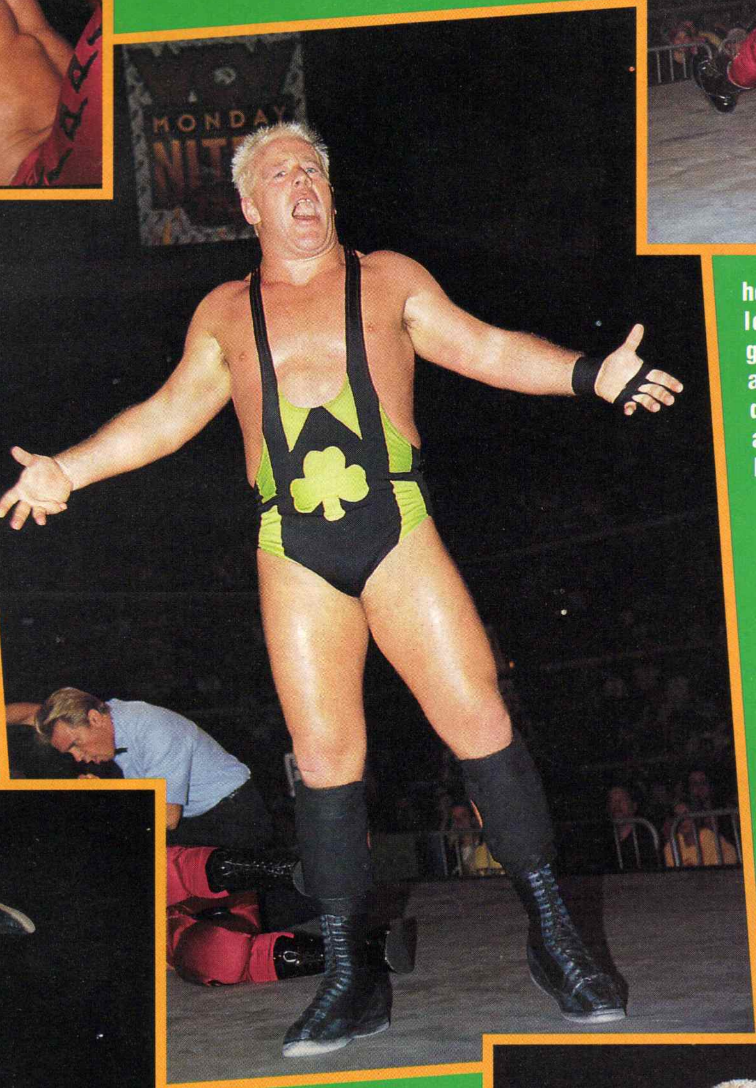
Said Booker T. of Finlay, "He's probably one of the toughest men in pro wrestling. He's not a high flyer, he's all technical and he can brawl like nobody else in the business."

Finlay's goal is to show WCW just what he is made of, and show his opponents that he's no rookie. "I have sort of an advantage because the wrestlers don't really know me, or know where I've been," he said. "They haven't had a lot of competition with me. They don't know what I am all about."

But Finlay knows what they're about. He spent a lot of time watching the goings on of the WCW and NWO and

F-I-N-L-A-Y





studying the various wrestlers' styles. "When I first came here I stood back and I saw everybody was falling out. The Guerreros were falling out, the NWO was falling out. So I'll just stand back and let it all fall apart and then I'll just pick 'em all off. I can wrestle better than any of them."

"There are a lot of good wrestlers in WCW," he added. "Booker T., Chris Benoit, Eddy Guerrero, Dean Malenko — these are all very talented guys. But my style is a bit different. I can punch and kick and wrestle. I can mix it with any of them."

Although Finlay has been a Tag Team Champ on several occasions — he was the TV Tag Champ with partner Scull Murphy and the European Tag Champ with Rollerball Rocco — he has no plans to join the WCW tag team ranks. "I do my own thing. I don't really like joining up with anybody. I cause enough trouble on my own," he said with a smile.

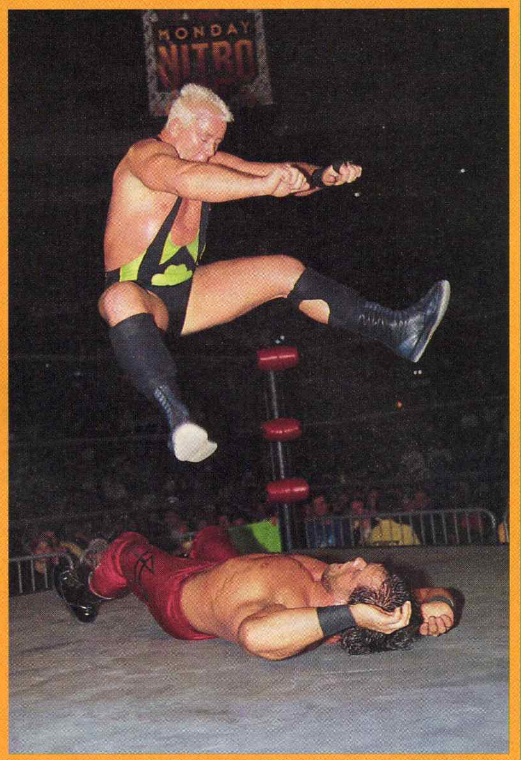
As for joining a faction like the NWO, Finlay said he has no intention of joining any group. "When you are in a group, there's always a boss and I don't like to be told what to do. And when you're the boss, you constantly have to be watching so no one stabs you in the back."

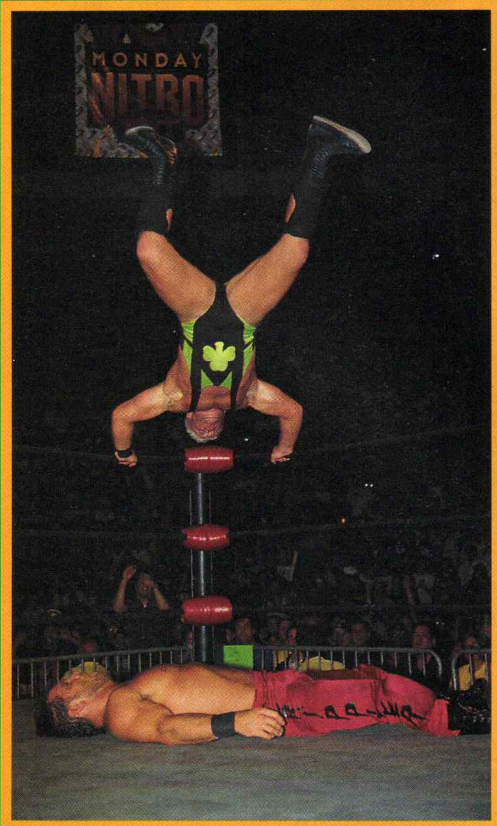
Finlay says he is ready, willing and more than able to take on anyone and everyone who comes his way, be it Heavyweights, Cruiserweights or Luchadors.

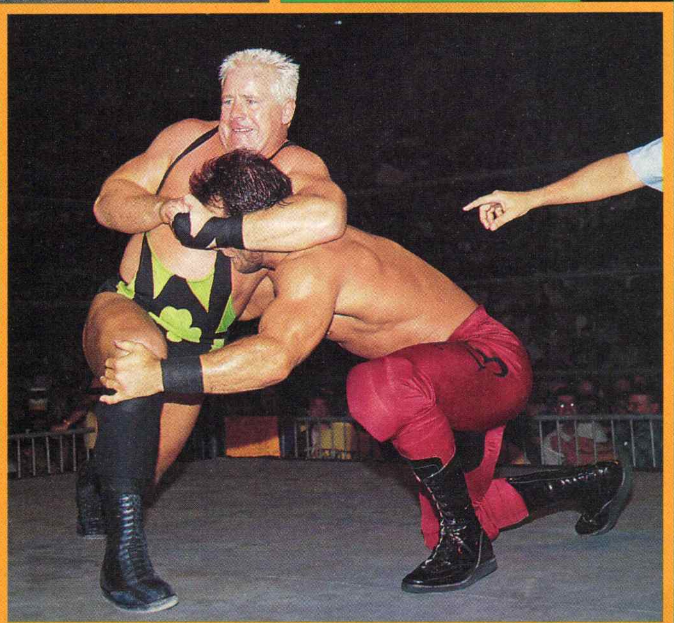
"I am a professional wrestler. That's my job," he said. I've been doing it a long time. Some of these guys have only been wrestling a couple of years and are quite talented, but I know a lot more than they do." He said.

"I never get nervous going into the ring, which is something I see a lot in the back room before matches. I think the only time I was nervous was my first match when I was 14; that's when I was nervous. But that's all gone. I just go into the ring and show the guy across from me what I am capable of. I do my best in each match. That's all I want to do."

That, and get his named spelled right when he walks to the ring.







INSIDE THE JUNGLE

BY LIONHEART CHRIS JERICHO

Hello faithful Jerichoholics!

Once again the king of the night time world is vocalizin' and socializin' his way into your lives, with another fine example of crack journalism, deftly worded and crisply presented. I know how relieved you must be to read this, after being forced Gestapo-style into digesting the previous trash, force fed to you by Colin Bowman and the rest of the usual gang of idiots at this dishrag known as WCW/nWo Magazine!

Once again your paragon of virtue will provide you with the moral fabric you require to knit your shag rug of a life. Once again I will lay down the law in no uncertain terms, Daddio! The buck both begins and stops right here, right now, Jerky!!!!

Every month you're always forced to hear about what's hot and what's not, in some magazine or another. Well today it's my turn and isn't my opinion the only one that you're really interested in? I thought as much. So with no further adieu, away we go!

WHO'S HOT

Jerichoholics: After the unbelievable response that I've received over the last six months, I can only say that you people deserve to give yourselves a round of applause!!!! As you all know, devoting your life to me is a difficult task and don't think I don't appreciate it!

Lionheart Chris Jericho, Man of 1004 Holds: After all the awards, kudos and adulation that has been showered down upon my precious head by the Jerichoholics, how can there be any doubt?

The Library Of Congress: After my methodical search for the truth, I found the information pot of gold, at the rainbow's end known as the Library of Congress. It was only there that I found the little known jurisprudence that allowed me to claim what is rightfully mine ... the Cruiserweight belt, baby!

Eddy Guerrero: The only man in WCW who understands what I've been going through. My only ally in this horrendous company. A man who understands what it's like to be misunderstood. A man who, after having to babysit his snot-nosed nephew Chavo, Jr., deserves to be called HOT.

David Penzer and WildCat Willie: Penzer. Willie. Willie. Penzer. Penzer and Willie. Willie and Penzer. I don't really have much else to say except, THESE KIDS ARE HOT!

WHO'S NOT

Goldberg: Everyone's making a big stink about this green rookie with about six months experience. Well I see through all the brouhaha and I stand alone in saying big whoop! The man has never beaten me, won't even dare to face me and until he does, he's definitely NOT!

Kevin Green, Dennis Rodman, Karl Malone: Another bunch of overrated stiffs who have no business in my sport! I mean do you ever see me shooting baskets for Rodman's beloved Blackhawks? Do you ever see me receiving a pass from Kevin Greene, allowing me to score a goal? And I wouldn't dare to challenge Malone to a game of tennis! So what makes these guys think they can grapple?

Ted Irvine: My father has been hit in the head so many times with a hockey puck, that he actually had the audacity to stick his nose into my business on national television! Well, after stumbling through most of his ridiculous speech, he was subsequently booed out of the building. Don't mess with the Jerichoholics, Pops!

JoJo Dillon: Stop sticking your schnozz where it don't belong, Fatty.

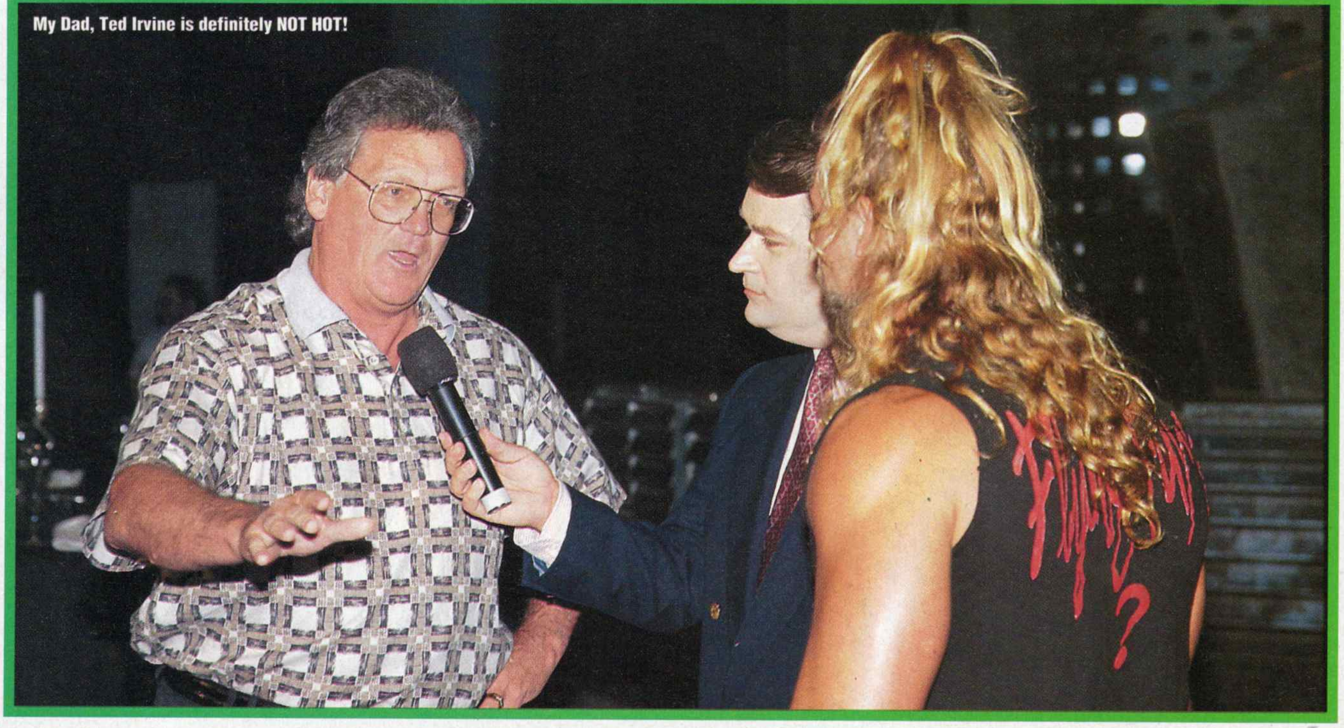
Worldwide Tapings: I'm sick of this show and if the WCW office doesn't cancel the quarterly tapings in Orlando and change the format of the program, I'm quitting WCW and heading to the NHL. I mean it!!

Well that's all you deserve for now. God bless you and be good to each other.

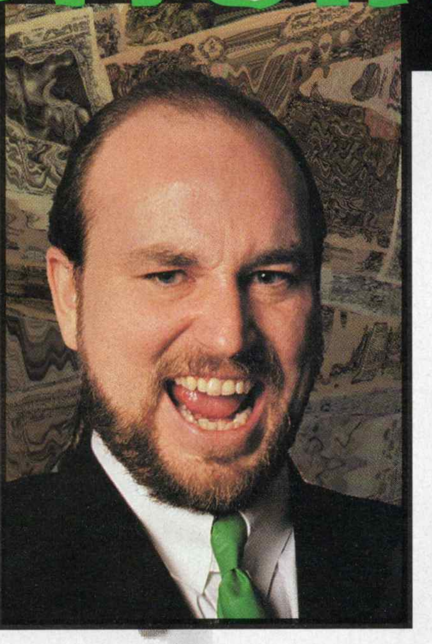
Don't forget www.chrisjericho.com

CJ

My Dad, Ted Irvine is definitely NOT HOT!



JAMES VANDENBERG'S
ODDITORIUM



Be forewarned that the opinions contained herein may be excessively direct for the faint-hearted. Such persons are advised to read something softer.

WCW's ship is rapidly sinking into the ocean of the NWO and they have no one to blame but themselves. Harsh statement? I don't think so. Let's examine the facts.

When Hall and Nash arrived as the Outsiders two years ago their presence was formidable but hardly overpowering. Talented, charismatic and world famous, the Outsiders caused a stir among the fans that was exciting and had many questioning those two wrestlers' true motives for arriving in WCW. The officials in WCW bemoaned the Outsiders' words and actions but did little to stop them. Why? Plain old fashioned greed. Hall and Nash drew big at the box office and helped push television ratings through the roof. This was the first mistake. Chasing the almighty buck is good up until the point that one throws out the baby with the bath water. In their quest to sell tickets, WCW allowed certain things to slide. They set a dangerous precedent that was quickly picked up on and used by others who followed in the Outsiders' footsteps.

The first big blow to the foundation of WCW was unquestionably the loss of Hollywood Hogan to the side of Hall and Nash. Like the Titanic running into an iceberg, Hogan's defection tore open the floodgates for disaster. This trio formed the backbone of The New World Order. The ball began rolling, growing in size as it picked up speed. Soon WCW's President, Eric Bischoff, joined the fold and it was all downhill from there. The very man in charge of the company was in the NWO's lair sharing valuable secret information with them. Bischoff held the company checkbook and began buying talent left and right.

Sure, there were some well-intentioned efforts at stopping the NWO in that initial phase but ultimately they failed. Like the old saying goes, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. There were some fines and suspensions, including the removal of Bischoff himself from office, but a casual glance at a current edition of Monday Nitro shows how effective that was. What good is discipline if it's not consistent? Any set of parents that handled their own children's discipline in the same sloppy manner in which WCW handled the NWO would soon have juvenile delinquents on their hands, wouldn't they? "Yes, dear, I know little Johnny has shoplifted, committed vandalism, and beaten up his principal but he sold so many pies at the bake sale." Get the picture?

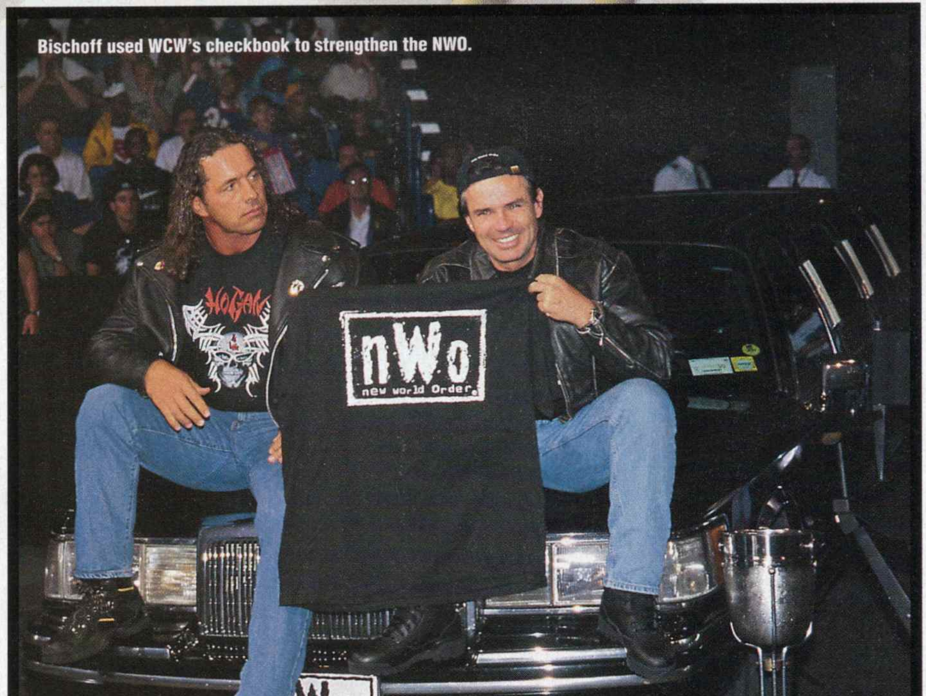
Perhaps WCW's biggest blunder was failing to marshall its troops into war against the NWO before morale began sinking. At their height, the NWO had perhaps 15 guys. WCW has over 100 tremendous athletes under contract. If I were the general in this war I would have sent every single WCW employee to attack the NWO en masse at one time. Why didn't WCW do that? The blame, I'm afraid, is divided evenly among the wrestlers, the announcers, the officials, and the fans. It was exciting. It was good for business. "Let it slide a little." It was cool to be a rebel and buy NWO merchandise even when you booed them, wasn't it?

Everyone talked a big game but only a handful fought on the front lines and most of those who did do something have already changed allegiances to one of the now divided NWO factions. Sting, Luger, Steiner, and many others who were considered to be the backbone of the company all jumped ship and the remainder are plotting mutiny. If you don't repair a leaky roof it only gets worse. The entire roof is about to cave in on WCW from the pressure of the NWO's torrential downpour.

There is a solution. WCW needs to elect a new general. Somebody unafraid to bring down the hammer of justice with speed, finality, and absolutely no remorse. It's time to declare a state of martial law. Those modern day Benedict Arnolds who defect to the NWO should be hunted down and destroyed like the rabid beasts that they are. The NWO has pulled off a coup and it's going to be left to the few brave individuals ready to employ guerrilla tactics to defend their livelihood and WCW as an organization. If the NWO takes total control do you think that their remaining outspoken opponents will still have a job? Guess again, Einstein.

I make these statements as an unbiased observer. Frankly, I have friends on both sides of this conflict so, like Switzerland, I remain neutral. However, I call it like I see it. If I were to publish my views of how the NWO could complete its apparent impending domination of WCW, this war would be over quickly. I won't do that, though. My check does still say WCW on top of it. Hey, a man's still got to pay the rent.

WCW, you have been spineless and weak for too long. Do something fast or sink into a watery grave of your own making. The meek shall inherit nothing. Of course that's just my opinion, and I could be wrong, but I doubt it.



Bischoff used WCW's checkbook to strengthen the NWO.

FACE THE FANS
BRET HART

Bret "Hitman" Hart is NWO Hollywood through and through.

Or is he?

"The Hitman" has aligned himself with "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan, and even teamed with Hogan at the June Pay-Per-View, but is Hart really pro-Hogan? Or simply inching closer to Hogan to make the knife slide into Hogan's back smoother?

With the help of some questions from Daryn Fredrickson, a wrestling fan from Hallock, Minn., WCW/NWO Magazine recently spoke with "The Hitman" about his future and his much talked about Master Plan.

HOW AND WHY DID YOU ALIGN YOURSELF WITH "HOLLYWOOD" HULK HOGAN?

"What it is is that I've learned that wrestling fans have no respect for the heroes in wrestling. Hulk Hogan was a great, great hero in wrestling a time back, and now the fans have completely turned their backs on him. And they've done the same thing to me. So maybe that's the bond, how I connect with Hogan.

"My dissatisfaction with the wrestling fans is incredible. They are the enemy more than anyone else. I think they are the ones who have turned the world of wrestling on its ear."

IS THIS A PRO-CANADIAN, ANTI-AMERICAN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FANS, OR SIMPLY THE FANS AS A WHOLE?

"At this point, I'm gonna say, WCW fans. They don't seem to know right from wrong. I'm not gonna go into America bashing because I don't think it's necessarily an American thing."

ARE YOU HAPPY IN NWO HOLLYWOOD?

"The Hitman is always happy. I never would let the wrestling business, the wrestling fans, or the wrestlers make me unhappy."

ARE YOU CONTENT ALIGNING YOURSELF WITH "HOLLYWOOD" HULK HOGAN?

"Yeah, because it certainly is the winning team around here. Why be a beaten down hero and a loser at the same time? Why not be a winner?"

BUT YOU HAVE ALWAYS SAID YOU WANT A PIECE OF HOGAN?

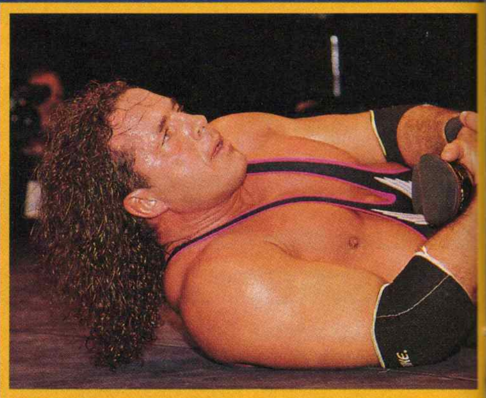
"I have said I want the World Championship belt, and that hasn't changed. And I'm sure, in time, that will come. I'm a patient man, always have been."

YOU HAVE LONG SAID THAT YOU ARE ORGANIZING A MASTER PLAN. WOULD YOU PLEASE ELABORATE?

"Well, you can't really tell people your plans, otherwise the strategy is hurt. And I do have a good strategy, and a great master plan, which is working masterfully right now."

WHAT ABOUT CHRIS BENOIT?

"Chris Benoit is a wrestler I completely respect. Unfortunately, he has been following the fans and it seems he has been making whatever stand he makes because of the fans. I had to set an example with Chris, a regrettable example, but I proved my point, that the fans don't have any respect for me."

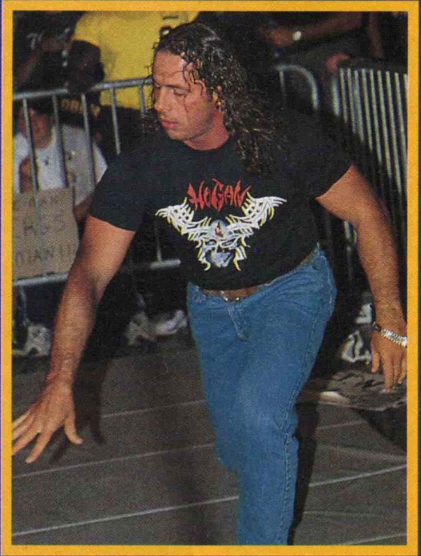


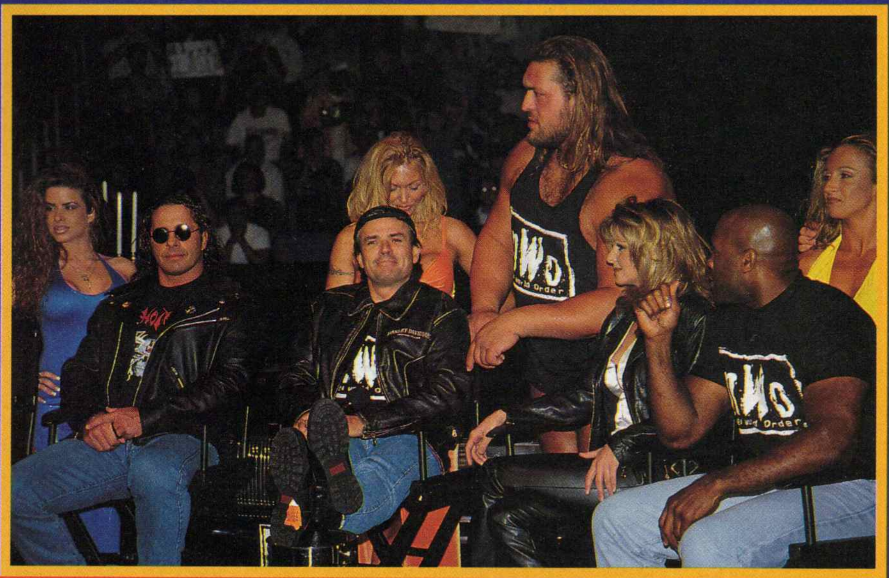
DO YOU WANT TO ALIGN YOURSELF WITH CHRIS BENOIT?

"I could see myself aligning with Chris Benoit, provided he altered his present thinking ever so slightly. He needs to be a little more in line with where I'm going as opposed to trying to set his own agenda."

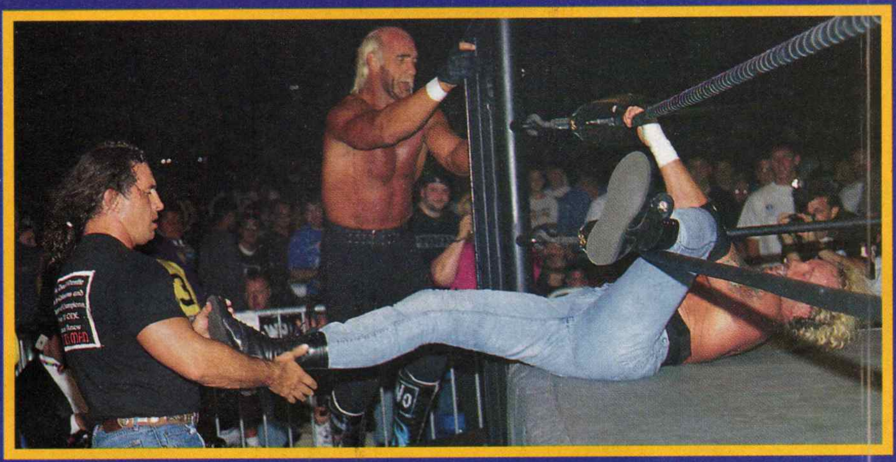
WHAT ARE YOUR FONDEST MEMORIES OF CHRIS BENOIT FROM HIS DAYS TRAINING AT YOUR DAD'S (STU) DUNGEON?

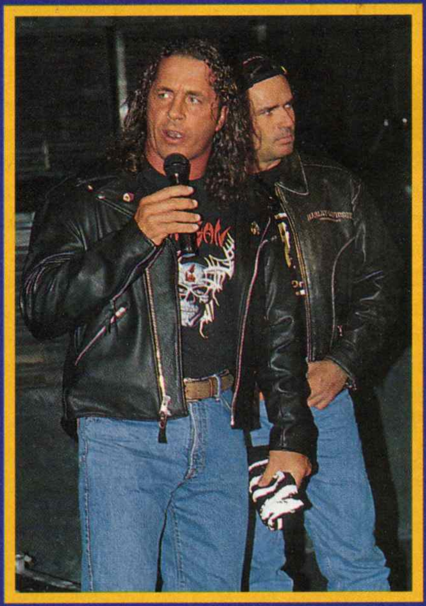
"Seeing him and knowing that he wanted to emulate The Dynamite Kid, his hero, and, incidentally, one of my heroes. Looking at (Benoit) now, it's good to see that he's done such a nice job of that. I wouldn't want anyone to think I'm taking away anything from Chris Benoit when I say he's almost a carbon





This months questions were submitted by Daryn Fredrickson of Hallock, Minn.
Please send your questions to WCW Magazine, PO Box 44, North Syracuse, NY 13212 USA





copy of The Dynamite Kid. In essence, that's like saying there are two Wayne Gretzky's. To say someone is just like Wayne Gretzky, that obviously is nothing but a compliment — and the same can be said for Benoit and The Dynamite Kid."

WHAT ABOUT THE FOUR HORSEMEN?

"Uh, uh, uh ... I will still have to judge them, and I will do that when I see the whole group."

WHAT ABOUT KEVIN NASH AND THE WOLFPAC?

"Scum, real scum. They are the real lowlifes of wrestling. Anyone who has aligned themselves with Kevin Nash and his crowd is in with, one, a bunch of losers, and second, a bunch of untrustworthy, unsavory, unreliable guys."

WHY IS THAT?

"Because no one knows Kevin Nash better than Bret Hart. I've been down the road with Kevin Nash in the past, and I'm sure I'll be down the road with him again in the future. When that happens, you'll see that he's not a man to be trusted."

WHAT ARE YOU FEELINGS ABOUT STING JOINING NASH'S WOLFPAC, ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU ACTIVELY RECRUITED STING TO ALIGN WITH YOU?

"I think Sting is misguided. I think he made a mistake when he didn't accept my friendship. Shoot, I almost begged him to not go with them. Sting obviously is another victim of the fans. He's been pulled every direction, and obviously doesn't know who's on his side, who's good, who's bad. Unfortunately Sting made the one mistake that I won't make — he listened to the fans."

WHAT ABOUT LEX LUGER?

"He's not one to be trusted either. He's very strong, a great wrestler, but, when it comes down to crunch time, he'll never back you up."

SO, WHO DO YOU TRUST?

(Hart did not answer the question.)

WHAT ABOUT "BRITISH BULLDOG" DAVEY BOY SMITH AND "THE ANVIL" JIM NEIDHART?

"There's a high amount of trust I have with them, but there's also an effort being made by me to sort of make new relationships, new ties with people, to find out who I can and who I cannot trust. I've always known I can trust those guys, and will rely on them when I need to. I'm not gonna just rely on them. One minor problem with them right now is, they aren't, or at least haven't been, there every night. I need people who will be in the dressing room every night."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITHIN WCW?

"I think their potential hasn't been tapped into, at least not as much as it could be. But, they both seem like they are making some strong headway here."

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FOR THEM?

"I would like to see Jim and Davey make a serious run for the Tag Team Championship belts."

HOW DO YOU ANALYZE THE WCW/NWO WAR?

"The NWO seems to be a very powerful force. The NWO definitely is the force. As many people who hate them, there are that many who love them, which is kind of odd. WCW seems to be a misguided group, with a bunch of losers who can't seem to band together for any length of time to put together any serious offensive together."

WHY HAVE THE FANS TAKEN SO MUCH TO THE WOLFPAC?

"You got me ... I don't know. One thing about The Wolfpac is, they don't have a leader. You can say what you want about Hulk Hogan, but the guy is a leader. Always has been, always will be."

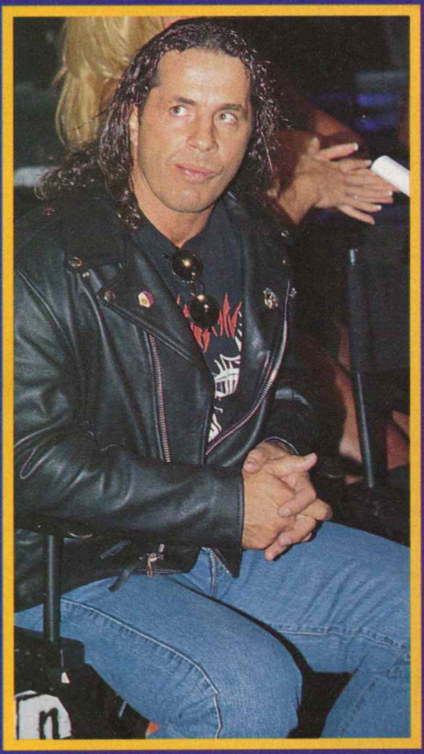
WHAT ARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF GOLDBERG?

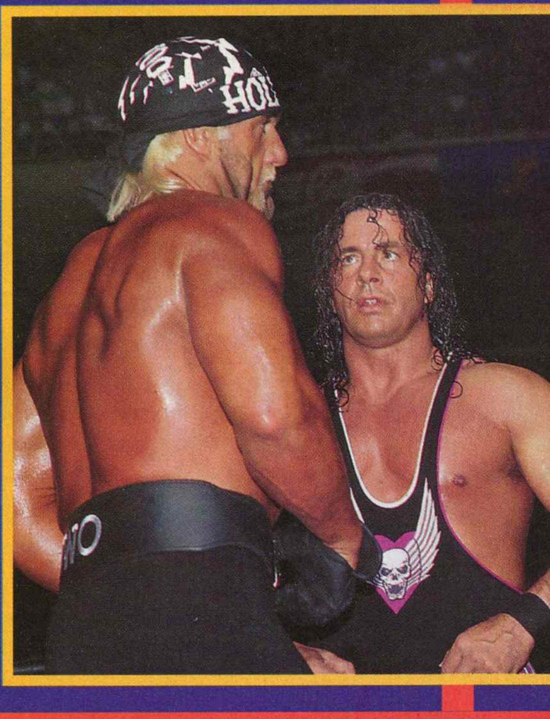
"He's like a machine, but, there are ways to beat Goldberg. I could kick the crap out of Goldberg. I could do it. I know I could do it. I don't even worry about Goldberg. How? I could never say. One of my strongest traits, I will say, is that I can take a licking and keep on ticking. I'm sure Goldberg would want to come at me with everything he's got, but after he's thrown everything at me that he has, that's when I'd tear him down ... and that's the difference between Bill Goldberg and Bret Hart.

"I've stepped into the ring one on one with Andre The Giant, so I'm not afraid of Goldberg. I don't care what his reputation is, or about anyone's reputation."

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE: IN JANUARY, 1999 ...

"The fans will hate my guts even more than they do now, and then I will rule the WCW."





MASK MASTER

Victor Ruben Martinez proudly carries on the mask making traditions of his father, Antonio.

The Legend of Antonio Martinez is alive and well in World Championship Wrestling. Just ask, rather look at Rey Mysterio, Jr., Psychosis, Super Calo or any of the other masked Mexican marvels.

Martinez is the father of wrestling masks, a man who defined, or should we say, redefined the sport of wrestling. Martinez is a native of Leon, about two hours northwest of Mexico City. In the 1930s, he worked in the shoe business, making the bases and molds for shoes by hand. He earned minimum wage, if that, for his detailed work at the shoe factory, but still was content. He had an inner drive to always be the best, at whatever he did. Martinez eventually left the shoe factory and went into the cloth business. A year after entering that field, he was named the store's assistant manager.

Wrestling, at the time, was just getting started in Mexico, with stars arriving from around the world. Martinez was a wrestling fan, and even developed friendships with several of the stars. In fact, he carried Charro Aguayo to the ring on his shoulders. Then, after Aguayo wrestled, Martinez would carry his luggage to and from the dressing rooms.

The kinship between Martinez and Aguayo developed quite well over time, and Aguayo one day asked Martinez to make him a pair of wrestling boots. One pair turned into two pair, three pair, and then other wrestlers asked for Martinez' services.

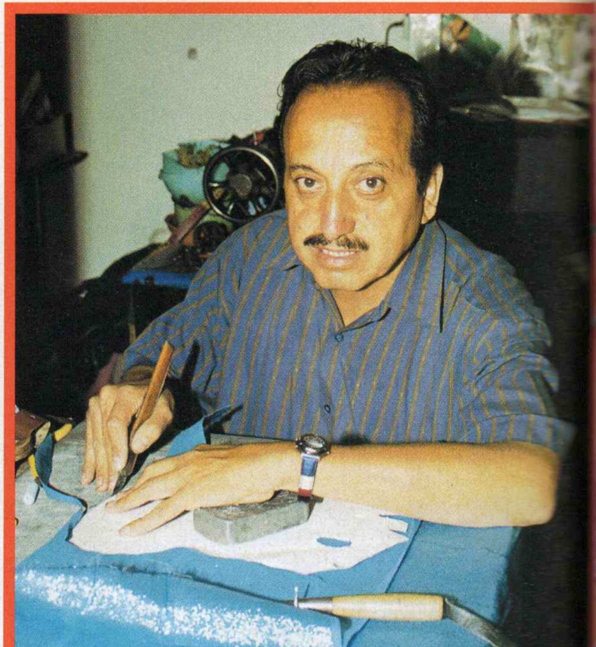
But then wrestler Ciclon Mackey wanted Martinez to make a mask, something that could be tied on. Although puzzled, Martinez took Mackey's measurements and went to work.

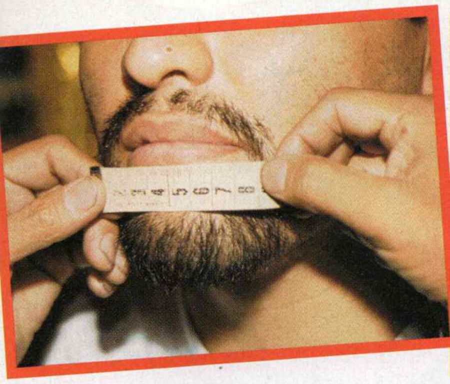
However, the final product — the first mask — was too small.

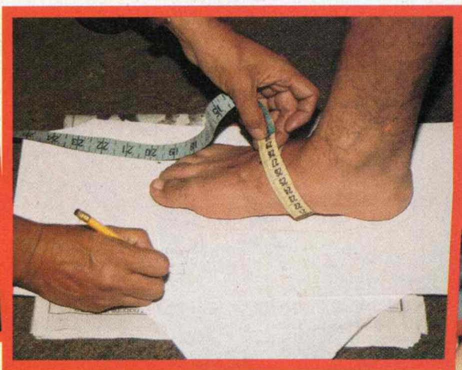
"He totally failed with that first mask," said Victor Ruben Martinez, son of the fabled fabric maker. "He decided at that point to not make anymore because (Mackey) was very angry because the mask was not good."

And he didn't — for a couple of months.

Mackey eventually asked Martinez to give it a second shot. Although very hesitant, Martinez produced a gem, made of animal skin.





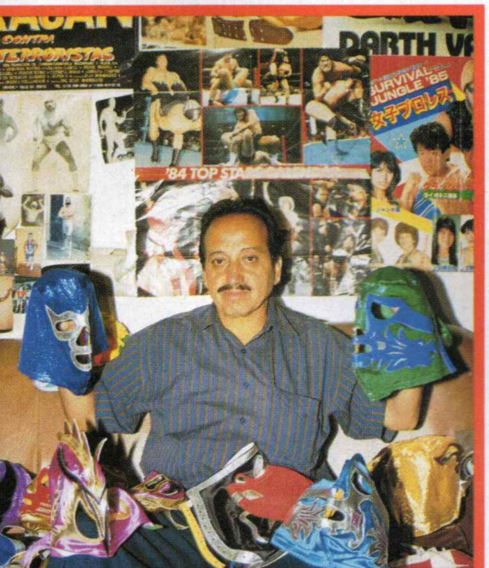


And so was born Maravilla Enmascarada, The Masked Marvel.

Many Mexican wrestlers then asked Martinez for masks, such as the legendary Santo (circa 1940) and Mil Mascaras (1962), not to mention Solitario, Blue Demon, Huracan Ramirez, among others.

Victor Martinez has followed his late father's handiwork. He's been making masks in the only Mexico City mask shop for the past 38 years.

"I like to create masks, the different designs," said Martinez, who has designed masks for Sangre Chicana, Superemo, Atlantis, Leon Negro and other lucha libre superstars. "The hardest part of making a mask is, you have to make a design that fits the person's personality, and, it has to exemplify your wrestling name. Is he aggressive? Is he timid? Is he laid back? Masks nowadays have to be modern because that's how they are, how they can be. In fact, a lot of the masks now are very futuristic, almost robotic as opposed to very simple which was the case in the past.



"I can make any type of mask, from a movie character to a cartoon character."

But getting from concept to final product is one long process, with 10 measurements of a wrestler's face — just for one mask. The design and mask mold take about two days.

"The reason it takes so long is, I've got tradition, a family name that's been built up for 78 years," Martinez said. "Even if a wrestler comes to me from a small (promotion), I still give then the same treatment I would a major international star."

In one week, Martinez might complete 30 or 40 masks.

"There is an art and a secret to mask making, especially in Mexico. And it's not something that is shown to the outside world. It's like making tequila by hand," said Martinez, who has produced more than one million over the past 38 years, for wrestlers in every possible country, such as Equador, Brazil, Columbia, Argentina, Germany, Japan, England, France and others.

So what is a mask made of?

At least 50 percent cotton, he said, because the cotton absorbs sweat. Previously, they were made from polyester "which really zapped a wrestler's energy."

Masks cost about $25 in Mexico, about $45 when sent to the U.S.

Martinez' favorite WCW masks are of Mysterio and Lizmark, Jr.

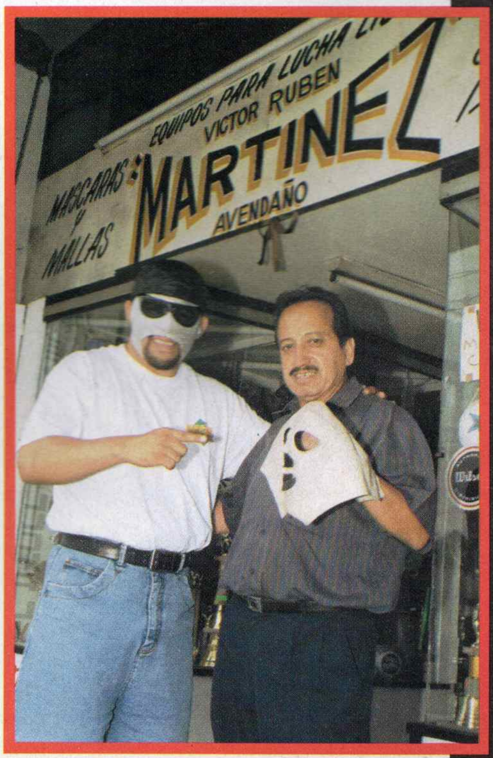
Here are Martinez' Top 5 Mexican masks of all time:

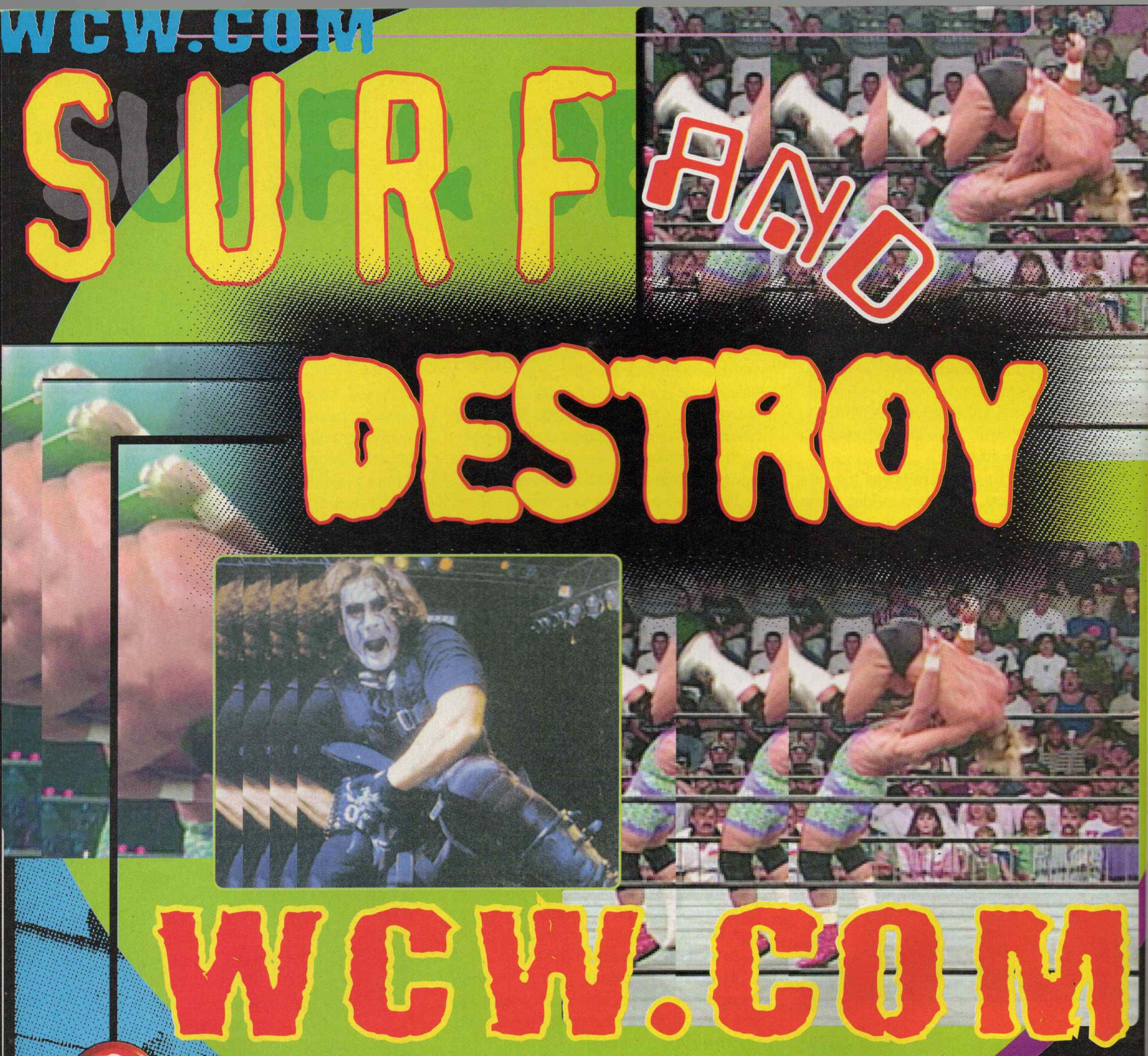
5. Canek
4. Santo
3. Darth Vader
2. El Solitario
1. Huracan Ramirez.

When WCW/nWo Magazine visited Victor Martinez' shop in Mexico City, Super Calo tagged along for the ride. Or maybe we were tagging along with him, but that's another story. Anyway, Martinez fitted Calo for a new mask, which Calo plans to debut in WCW in the near future.

Martinez was meticulous in his work, done in a closet-like room of his shop that is open to the public during normal business hours. There was fabric all around and machinery that probably was older than Super Calo. Martinez measured 10 areas on, or around, Calo's head, such as the distance from his nose to his chin, the distance from ear to ear, etc.

Martinez' shop not only is a mask haven, but a delight for students of wrestling history. He has a veritable wall of fame with pictures and posters of nearly every wrestler from all around the world including a shot of Hulk Hogan from the 1980s, Meng (same era), El Santo and Antonio Inoki.





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Mean Gene Okerlund hosts with Mark Madden LIVE from Winston-Salem, NC.

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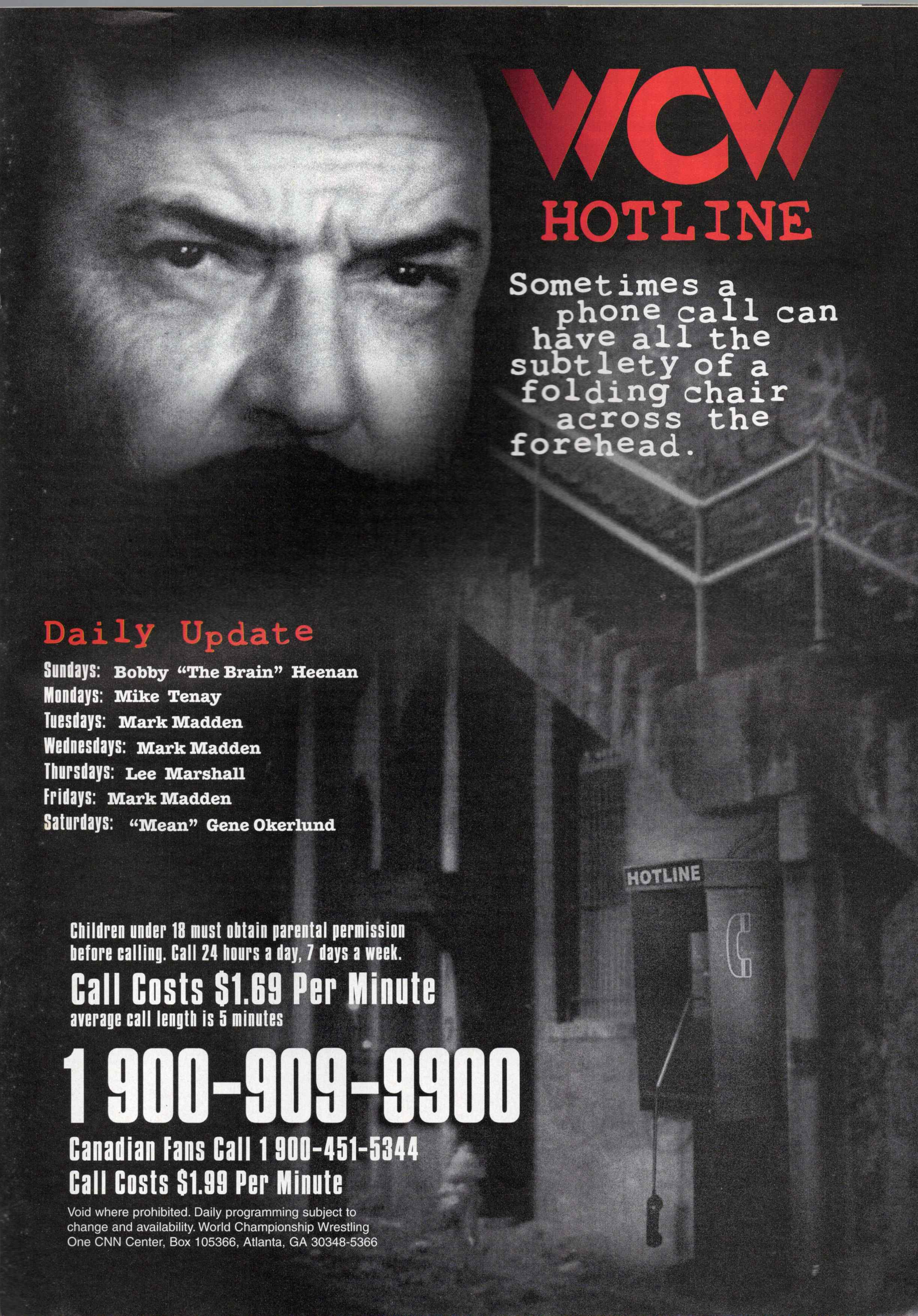
Mark Madden, Lee Marshall & Chad Damiani announcing LIVE from Winston-Salem, NC.

- **September 14th - WCW MONDAY NITRO WORLDWIDE SIMULCAST 8-11pm ET**
Mark Madden, Lee Marshall & Chad Damiani announcing LIVE from Greenville, SC.

Streaming provided by AudioNet, The broadcast network on the Internet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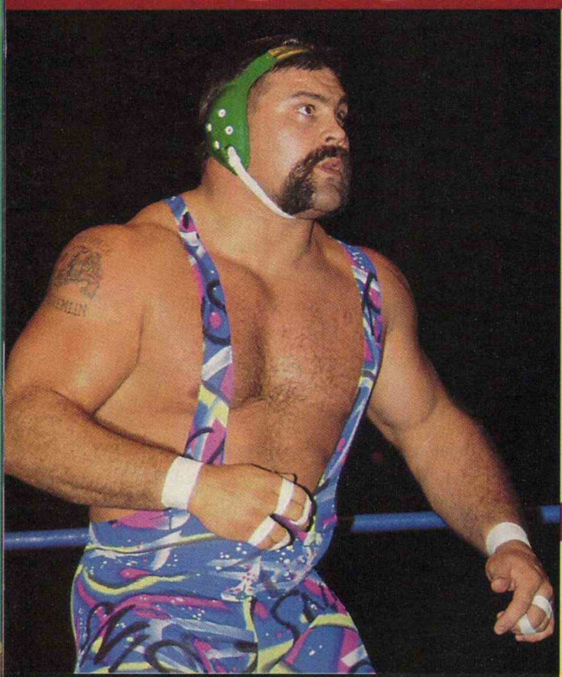
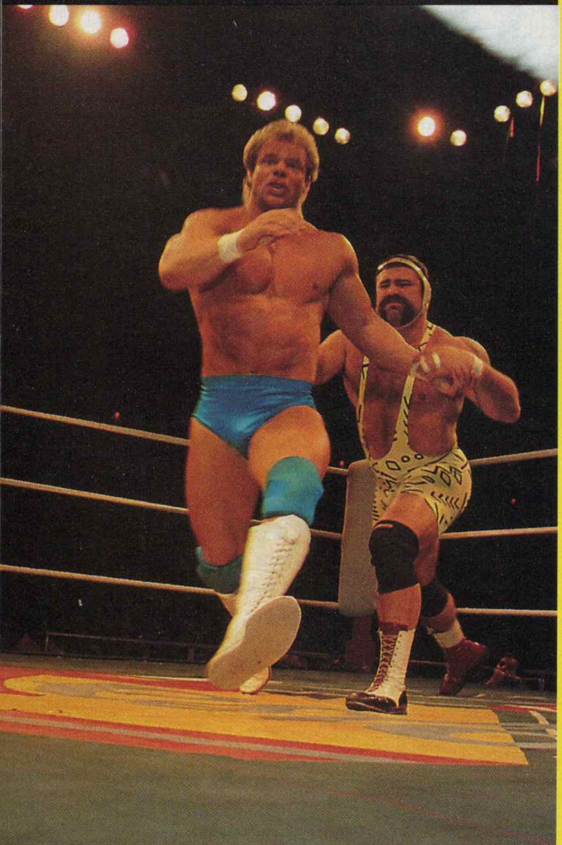
THIS IS YOUR LIFE

RICK STEINER



WCW's Dog-Faced Gremlin, Rick Steiner, is one of the strongest athletes in the business. A Michigan native, and graduate of the University of Michigan, Rick is a family man who now lives in suburban Atlanta. He has been a WCW stalwart for most of the 1990s, and his singles career dates back to the NWA days. Rick and younger brother Scott formed The Steiner Brothers tag team, one of the most successful duos in wrestling history. Rick also has teamed with the late Eddie Gilbert, Sting and Mike Rotunda, among others.



Here is The Life and Times of Big Brother Rick:

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

"All I have are good ones. I remember riding a minibike and a go-kart, fishing with my brother at the river, camping out. I did all of the things a normal boy would do. Every summer I played organized baseball, then played football (guard and defensive end) in high school. I remember family trips to Wyoming, Montana and places like that."

HOLIDAYS

To me, the holidays are a real big deal. I don't know if that's from how I was raised, or what. I remember, every Halloween my parents made it a big deal to take us out with our cousins and friends. Christmas was a memorable time, always a good time because my dad had a big family — 14 brothers and four sisters — and we'd all meet at Grandma's house. I probably had 30 cousins there. New Year's also was a special day; we'd always do something together. Same with the Fourth of July.

Now, as a father, I like making the holidays a big time. I really make an effort to have my boys enjoy the holidays."

BAY CITY (Mich.) WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL MEMORIES

"I can remember practicing football, running (on the) track team. I remember the bus rides from my school to other schools for the different games. I remember a few of my friends. In fact, I remember one friend (Doug Meylan) in particular. My brother and I did a lot of things together with him.

"High school for me was fun ... college was even better."

(Rick graduated in 1980.)

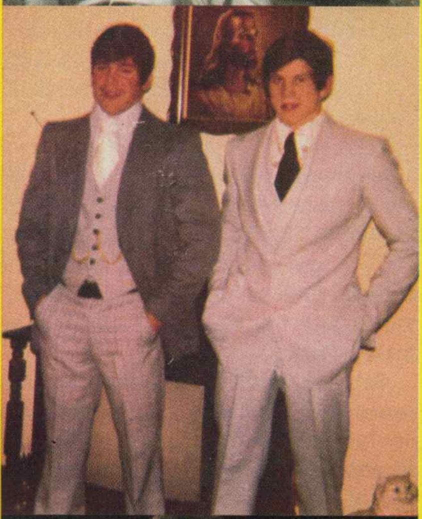
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEMORIES

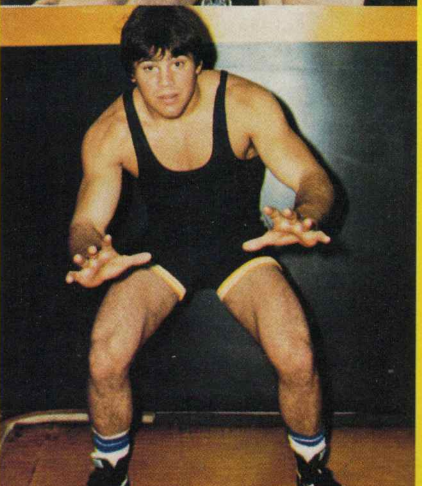
"I really had a good time in college. My parents were really strict, and college really was my first time away from home, on my own. I stayed in a dorm and, for the first two years, I think it was a time to run wild. Other than practicing wrestling twice a day, and studying whatever I had/needed to, we'd run wild outside the dorm. I really enjoyed my time in college, especially the parties with the football players.

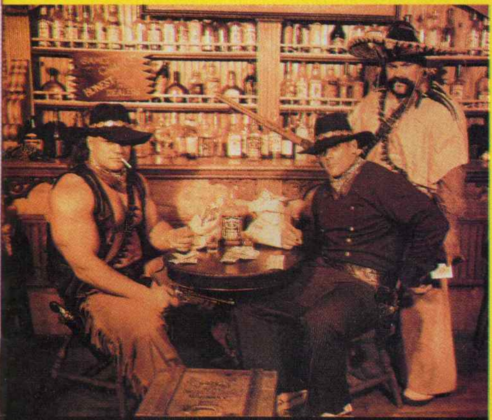
"I worked at a couple of bars on the Ann Arbor campus and, through those jobs, met a lot of people. I also knew a lot of football and baseball players who went on to the pros.

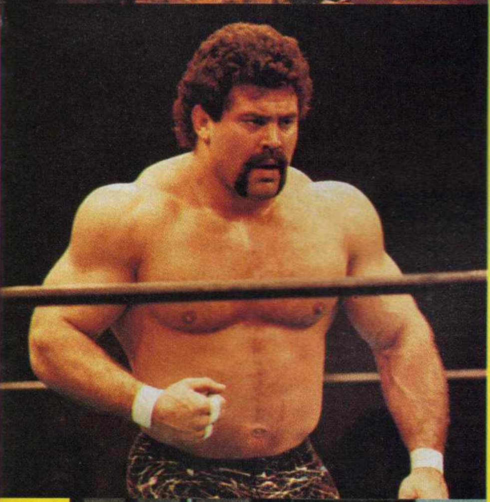
"I did a lot of wild things in college, like everyone else does."

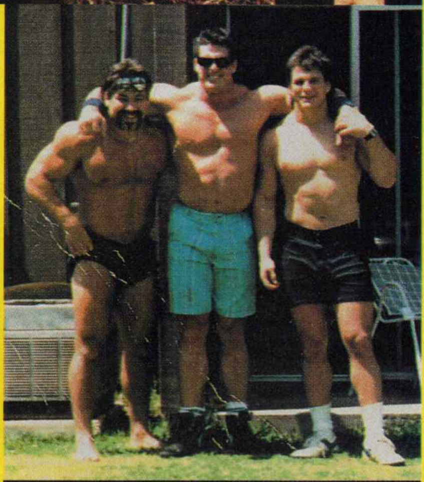
(Steiner attended Michigan at the same time

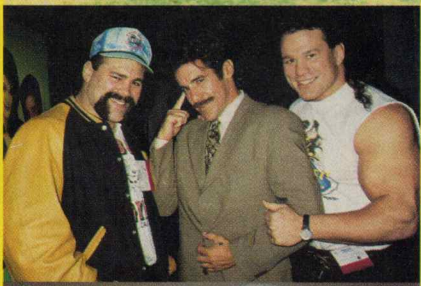


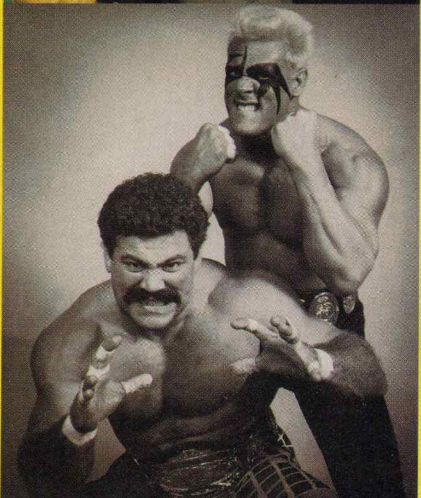












as Barry Larkin and Hal Morris of Major League Baseball fame. Also a Wolverine during Steiner's era: footballers Bubba Paris, Anthony Carter, Jumbo Elliott, Mike Hammerstein. Steiner graduated in 1984.)

MICHIGAN'S STRONG SPORTS TRADITION

"I'm a Wolverine For Life. I still keep track of the hockey and baseball teams, and of course the football and basketball teams. I think the football team again will be good this year. Who else is there in the Big Ten to stop them? Indiana? I don't even think Indiana has a team. Ohio State? They can't beat us."

MY EARLY YEARS IN PRO WRESTLING

"I remember starting out in Minneapolis, going through Verne Gagne's (Wrestling) School with Brad Rheingans. I remember going to Montreal for eight months to learn how to wrestle professionally and get some experience. One area I remember a lot of was the Mid-South (territory) with Sting, Eddie Gilbert, 'Dr. Death' Steve Williams, The Freebirds, etc. A lot of the top names at the time were in that region, so I came across them then; that was nice. I learned my trade by watching them. I have a lot of memories; I've been to a lot of places, such as the Louisiana territory. That's a nice, slow, easy-going state; I liked it there. I remember getting my first real break in the wrestling business in Charlotte; that's when I got my first contract. When (Ted) Turner bought out WCW (in the late 1980s), I received what I thought was a lot of money ... and it was at that time. The early days were a lot of fun. I learned a lot of things from Buzz Sawyer, Terry Taylor, 'Hacksaw' Jim Duggan, Jake Roberts, guys like that; they were guys with a lot of charisma.

"One memory that I'll never forget was driving home one night in about 1986 with Steve Williams. There was a car accident and we ended up pulling three guys from the military out of a burning car to save their lives. About a year later, they came up to us and asked if we remembered them."

ON THE STEINER BROTHERS TAG TEAM

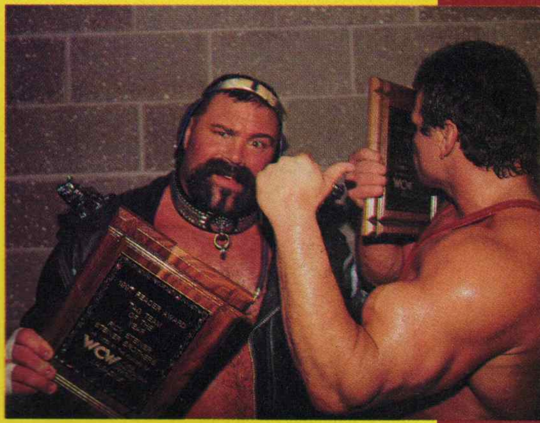
I think we always had a good capacity for working well together. After about a year or two together, I think we started making our mark on this sport. I think we were one of the more successful teams of the 1990s. I think we accomplished a lot of things. We were the champions in several promotions in the United States, and also made our mark in Japan. My brother and I have held the championship belts everywhere we've gone; I don't know if that'll ever happen again, but you never know."

STING

"We've lived near each other and traveled together for many, many years now. Sting has been a real good friend of mine."

ON SCOTT JUMPING TO THE NWO AND STABBING HIM IN THE BACK

"I'm the older brother and my mom says I always need to look out for my younger brother. Well, I've looked out for him, but not any more. A few months ago, when I gave him the benefit of the doubt and was willing to accept him back, then he stabbed me. If it had been anyone else, I would have refused, said I didn't trust them, but Scott's my brother. I gave him another chance — and he chose his deal, and he'd gonna have to live with it."



FAMILY

"I have three sons who I'm very proud of: Hudson, 6; Maveric, 3 and Bronson, 8 months.

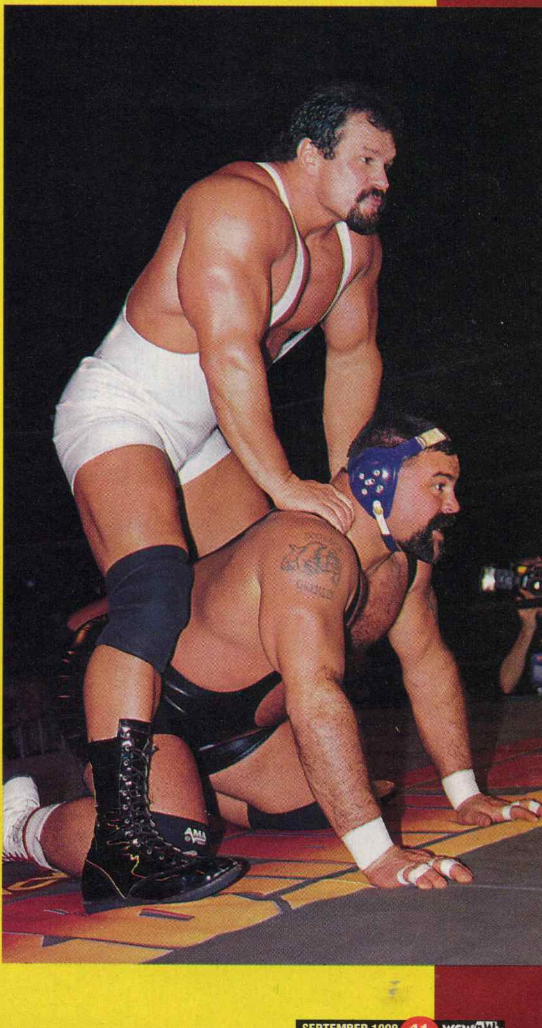
"I do everything I can to be the best influence on them that I can. Hopefully someday they will grow up, make their own decisions and, who knows, maybe be a pro baseball player or a pro golfer. I think I'd rather them do that than wrestle, but, if they choose to wrestle, that's fine."

ON HIS SON'S NAMES

"Hey, they're good sports names. When you think of the legendary players in baseball and football, and all the other sports, everyone has unique names. So I wanted to get unique names for my boys, and hopefully some day they can be sports stars."

HOBBIES

"I like to hunt and fish. They are relaxing, something I like to do and a great way to involve my boys. Going out on the lake is a great way to get away from everything, just be at peace."



Special DELIVERY

By Ross Forman

I kind of feel guilty, like I'm letting the team down.

You see, I'm a longtime Chicago Bulls fan, a faithful supporter long before M.J. & Co., rocked the United Center. Shoot, I was among those who belonged among the "diehard" group at the old Chicago Stadium when Benny the Bull was among the star attractions – not a mere sideshow, as he is now. So, with six titles in the bag, you can bet I'm in ecstasy, to say the least.

But how could I have done what I did this past January? Sure, I was helping the team (WCW, in this case), but, as it turned out, I was letting down my team (Chicago) big time.

This past January, I attended a trading card show in Houston, Texas, promoted by Houston-based Tri-Star Productions. Diamond Dallas Page was among the show's guests. In fact, DDP was the three day show's most popular autograph signer. With Saturday night open, I asked Page if he wanted to attend the Houston/Utah game at the Compaq Center. DDP, himself a former college hoops star and sports megafan, naturally jumped at the opportunity. My friends at Tri-Star, company president Jeff Rosenberg and Public Relations guru Mandy Fuerst, were able to secure some "sweeeeeet" seats for us: four rows behind the Utah bench. Who cares that we looked like we were supporting "the enemy." Hey, these were great seats.

DDP had a blast at the game, just as I did, even the host Rockets couldn't put up a fight to make it a close game. In the end, I think Houston lost by about 25.

Throughout the game, especially in the second half, I spotted several Utah players "conveniently stretching their neck" to eye DDP. They didn't want to make their star gazing during the game to be obvious, but it was apparent. From players to the team trainer. Including superstar Karl Malone.

Then came the first Diamond Cutter sign. During a fourth quarter time out, Malone positioned himself with his back to the court. He was then looking through the team's time out instruction session, directly at me and DDP, sitting side by side, Page on the aisle to ease the cramping pain a 6-foot-7 man feels when crammed like a sardine into stadium seating. All of a sudden, without provocation, Malone flashed The Diamond Cutter sign.

DDP tried to stay cool, but, in reality, was smiling broader than ear to ear, albeit mostly internally. Christmas is DDP's favorite holiday, and he annually celebrates in royal, traditional ways. Seeing Malone flash The Diamond Cutter was like a 5-year-old DDP getting the two presents he REALLY wanted.

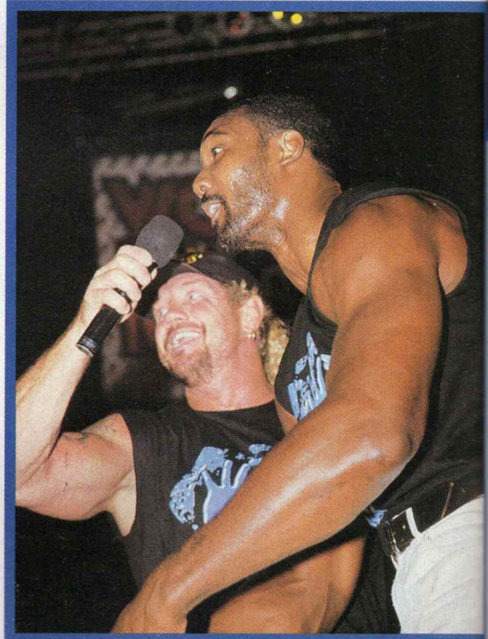
Malone's move, no doubt, surprised DDP. But it shocked me. And, yeah, it caught me off guard. How could I not have my camera ready?

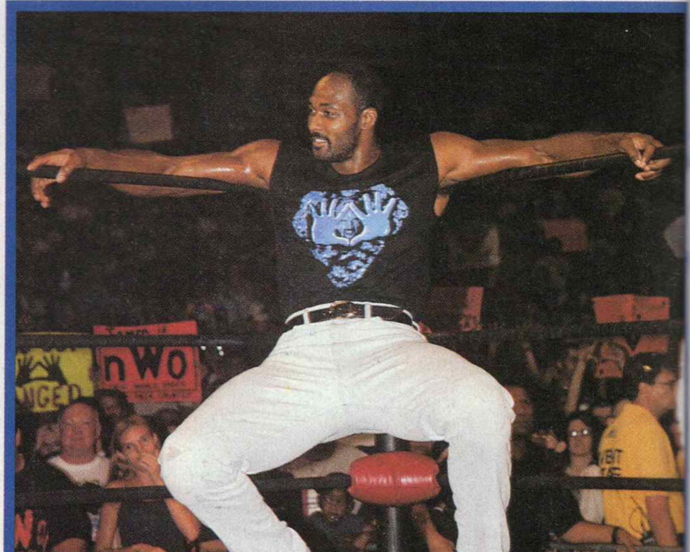
But who's to say Malone wouldn't, or couldn't, give another Diamond Cutter sign?

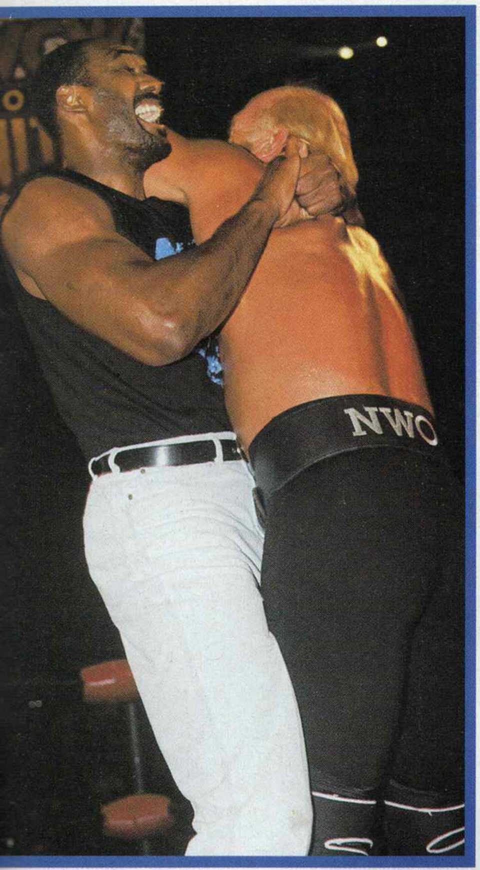
As play resumed, DDP and I talked about what we just saw, probably to make sure neither of us was seeing things. Then I told Page, "Hey, get him to give another Diamond Cutter sign — and I'll get a picture of it."

I think DDP thought I was nuts.

"You want me to do what?!" Page asked. "I couldn't believe Ross actually wanted me to get Karl to do it again so he could take a picture of it. But, when I threw my arms in the air, he immediately followed," Page said recently.







DDP threw up the Diamond Cutter sign AT Malone during the next time out, and Malone immediately answered. Sure enough, as if we had truly planned it: DDP formed his hands into the Diamond and Malone, standing in the same position as the earlier time out, flashed The Diamond Cutter at Page. Malone even whipped his arms down, in the popular "Bang" motion.

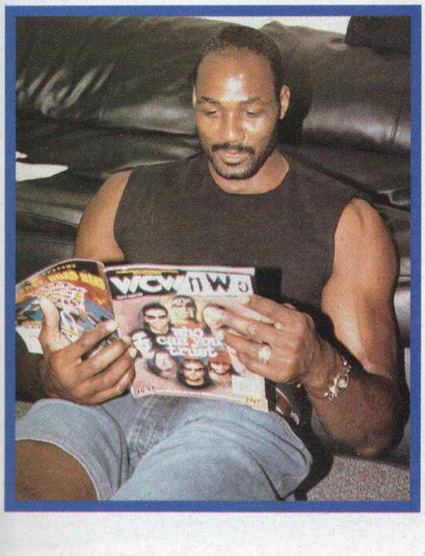
Snap.

Picture perfect.

Kodak moment.

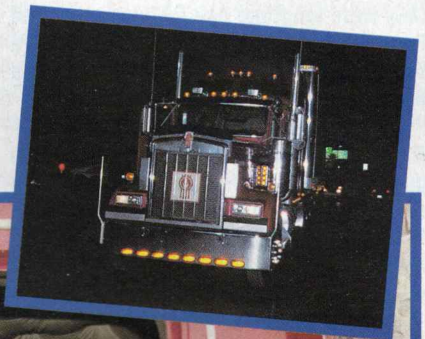
Karl Malone isn't the lone sporting superstar to side with Diamond Dallas Page, but perhaps the most noted. Just consider some of DDP's loyalists:

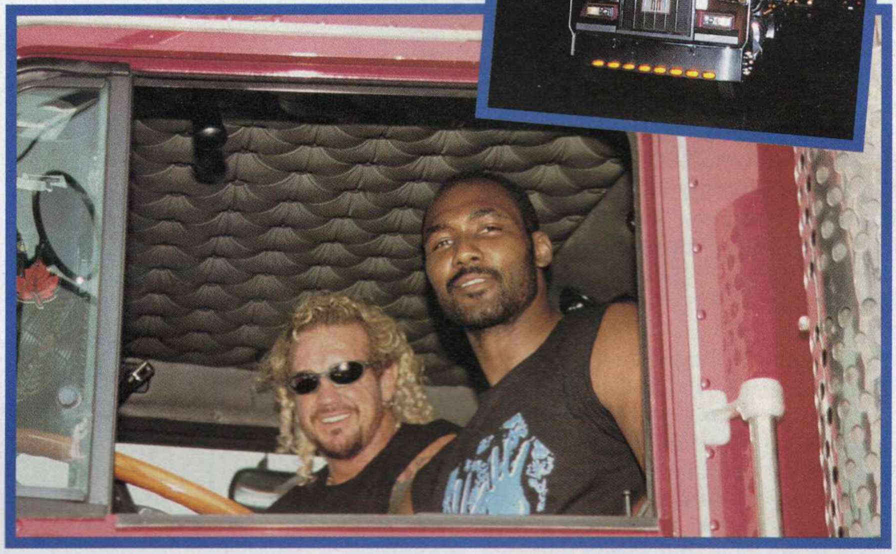
- On Feb. 22, at the Pro Bowlers Association (PBA) National Tournament in Toledo, Ohio, eventual champion Pete Weber flashed The Diamond Cutter during the nationally broadcast event. Weber, son of the great Dick Weber, will be inducted into the PBA's Hall of Fame in November and is second on the group's all-time earning list (about $2 million).
- Herschel Walker flashed The Diamond Cutter sign last season after scoring a touchdown.
- Todd Dusosky of the National Professional Soccer League (NPSL) champion Milwaukee Wave celebrated a goal this season with The Diamond Cutter sign.

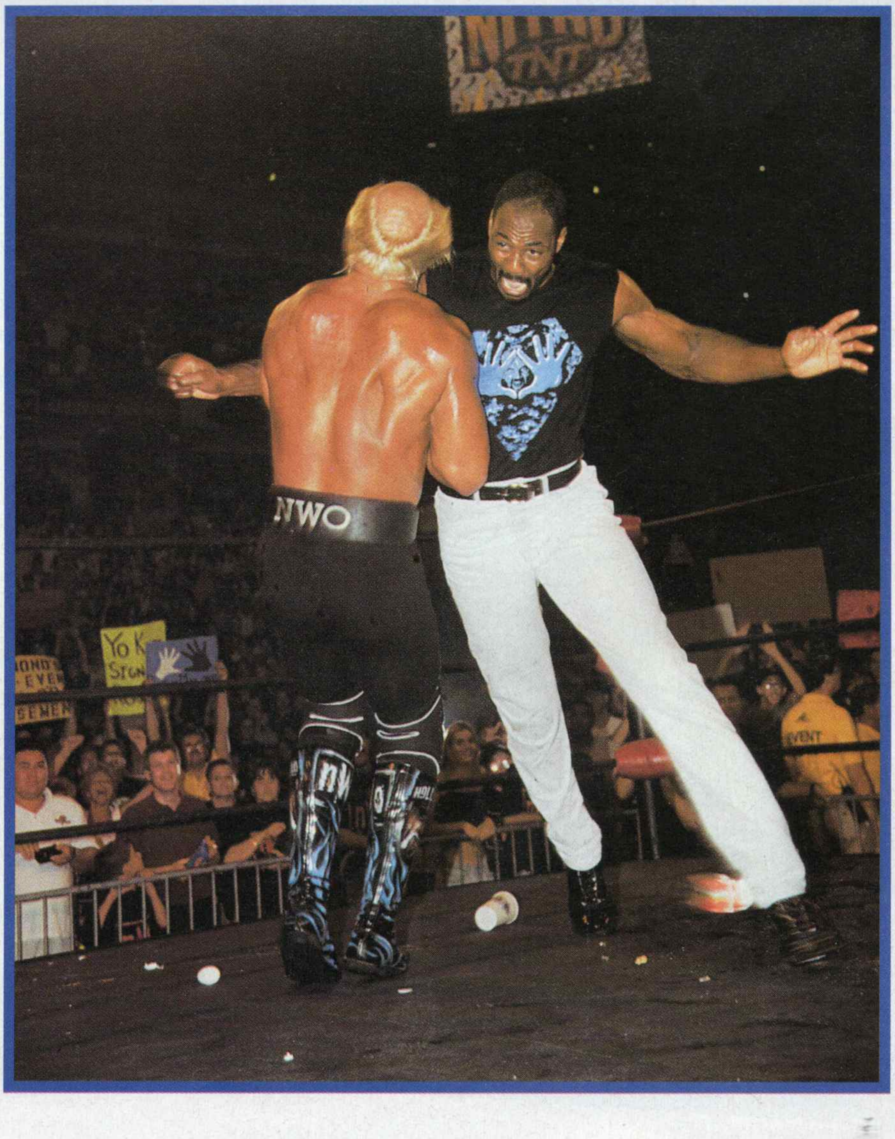


"It's the universal symbol for excellence," Page explained, "and, yeah, everybody's doing it, from old ladies to little kids, boys, girls, everyone."

Malone flashed The Diamond Cutter sign during Game Six of the Finals in Salt Lake City.







After Malone's team had won that Saturday night in Houston, DDP and I went to the locker room area, initially to see Charles Barkley of the host Rockets, a longtime WCW fan. As we waited in a backstage hallway, Malone immediately spotted DDP and the two embraced as if they were longtime pals. Malone admired Page. Page admired Malone. The two chatted for about 10 minutes, then exchanged phone numbers.

So was born a true friendship.

A month later, DDP was Malone's guest at the All Star Game in New York City.

Later in the season, DDP visited Malone and his family, also diehard wrestling fans.

Shortly after the season ended, their friendship grew even stronger when the two agreed to battle "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan and "The Worm" Dennis Rodman at the Bash At The Beach in San Diego.

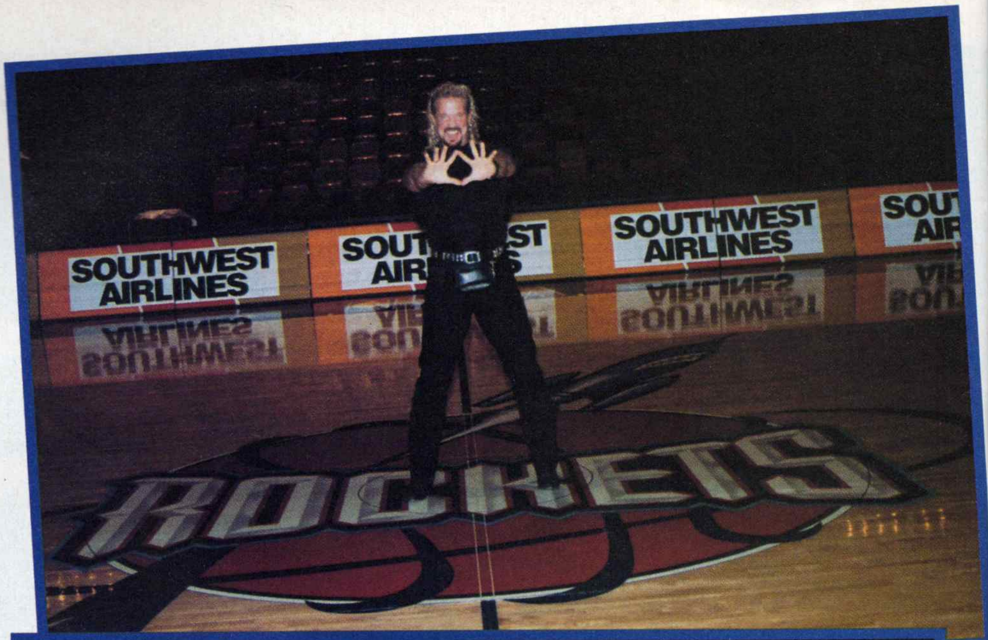
But wait, that's Malone, who I honestly can take partial credit (and a large part, at that) for introducing to DDP/WCW, against Rodman of my beloved home town team. Hmmm, talk about a tough one.

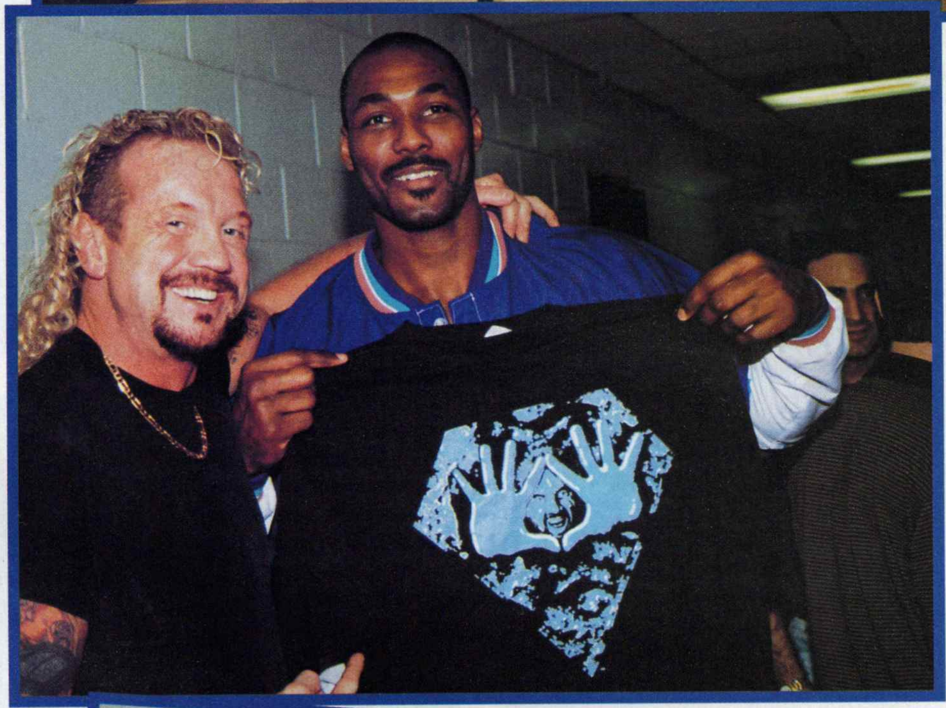
"A lot of people wonder why Karl would (wrestle). Well, let me tell you, they beat the hell out of each other on the court, too," said Page, attacked from behind and smacked with a chair several times by Rodman and Hogan during a nationally televised Monday Nitro.

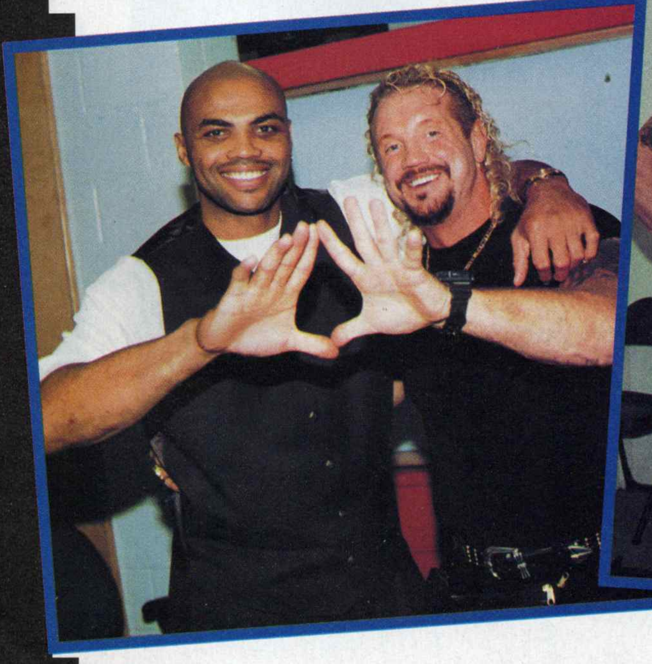
The Page/Malone friendship is supported by the fact DDP also was a hoops hero. Page was an all region center/forward at Ocean County College (Toms River, N.J.) in the late 1970s, where he averaged 22 points and 13 rebounds.

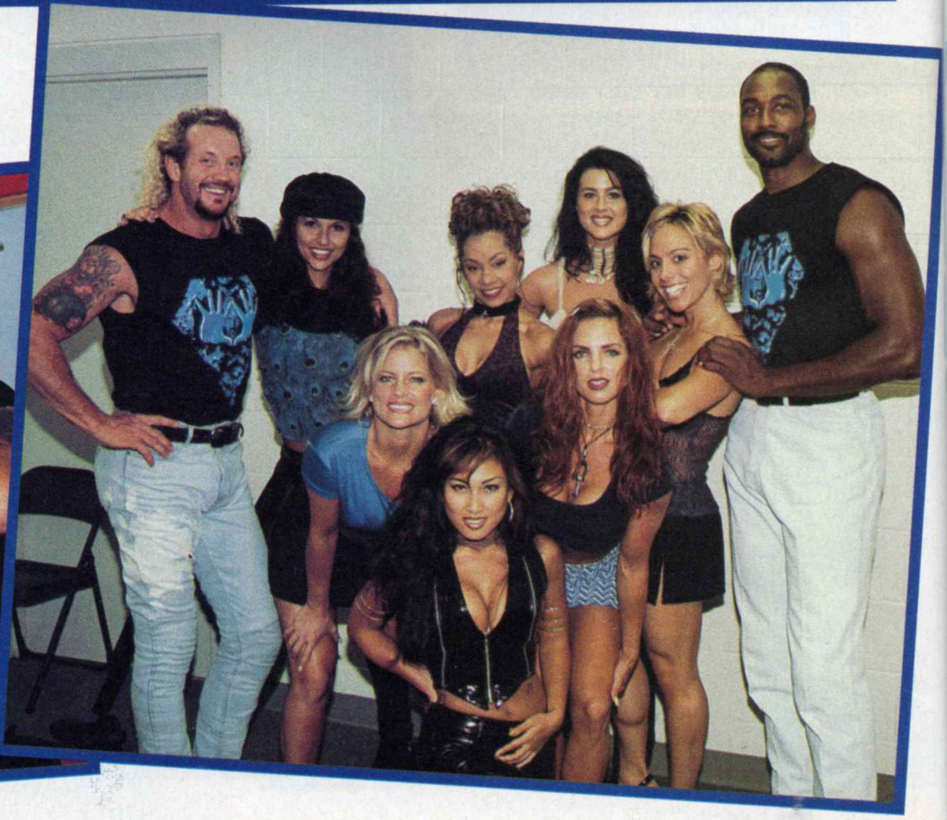
So what does "The Mailman" have to say? We asked, just as every mainstream media outlet did.

"Why do I just have to stick to one sport? This is something I want to do. That's what's wrong with society now; they think people shouldn't explore things that they want to do. Everyone is so caught up in (being) afraid to not do things they want to do that they knock









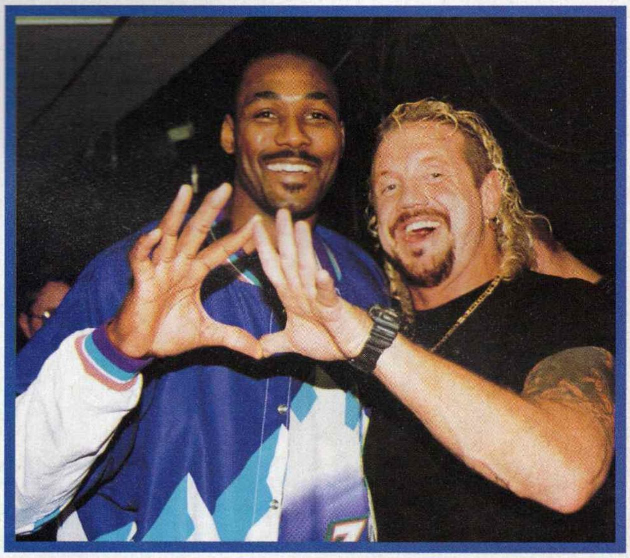
other people who have the guts to go do. A lot of people don't have the guts to go do something because it's a challenge, and that's what (wrestling) is. You're walking into someone else's domain, but you've got to walk into someone else's domain and learn (the trade); you don't walk in there like you own the place.

"Ain't no where in my contract (that says), 'Stick with just one sport' I do other things (like) riding Harley-Davidsons.'

Malone admitted prior to the Bash that he had "no idea" what the mat war was going to be like. Although he did get a taste of the action during the June 29, Nitro in Tampa, when he clotheslined and slammed a bewildered Hogan. Clearly it will be a personal high.

"This ranks right up there. Off the court, other than my kids being born and me getting married, this ranks No. 1 as far as things I've always wanted to do and now have the opportunity to do."

Malone's decision to enter the squared circle certainly garnered a huge interest in the mainstream press ... here are just two reports from the hundreds that have been written.



It's Rodzilla vs. Mailman

BURBANK, Calif. (AP) Dennis Rodman and Karl Malone tuned up for their planned Pay-Per-View wrestling event with some taunting and pushing Wednesday on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

The two self-proclaimed wrestling fans say they'll square off in a tag-team match in San Diego on July 12. Rodman will partner with "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan against Malone and Diamond Dallas Page.

Leno asked the rebounder to explain his attraction to wrestling. Rodman's wrestling moniker is "Rodzilla."

"I just like the men in tights," said Rodman, sporting a ring in his nose and lower lip and a leopard-skin hat.

Hogan described Rodman as "a natural" in the ring, then called Malone's partner, Diamond Dallas Page, "a yellow-bellied coward."

"I called Karl a lot more than a wimp on the court," Rodman told Leno. "I don't know how he's going to beat me in the ring when he can't beat me on the court."

At that moment, Malone and Page walked on stage, prompting wild cheering from the audience. Malone showed off his muscles in a sleeveless World Championship Wrestling shirt.

Malone put a playful headlock on Leno, who stood in the middle while Rodman and Hogan exchanged trash talk and shoves with Malone and Page.

"It feels like an episode of Jerry Springer," cracked Howie Mandel, who followed the fracas on stage.

Rodman made headlines when he appeared, cigar in hand, with Hogan for a WCW event in Auburn Hills, Mich., a day after his team went ahead in the finals.

Malone and his mother are big wrestling fans.

Mailman to deliver on Sunday

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) - Growing up, Karl Malone wanted to do three things: be a state trooper, fly jets and "wrassle."

He never realized his first two desires and instead became a sporting legend.

He's finally doing something about that third one.

Malone will partner with Diamond Dallas Page against rival Dennis Rodman and "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan in a July 12 pay-per-view wrestling match dubbed "Bash at the Beach" in San Diego.

"I've been waiting to wrassle for a long time, so this is a dream," Malone said Thursday at Planet Hollywood, where the foursome exchanged taunts, glares and, in Rodman's case, a smirk. "I'm a big fan. I do it because I want to do it."

"When Karl gets in the ring, he's in uncharted territory," said Rodman, dressed in a rumpled white T-shirt and plaid pajama bottoms. " I've been to the top. I've got nothing to prove."

In true wrestling style, Malone and Rodman have monikers. Malone is "The Mauler" and Rodman is "Rodzilla."

Rodman taunted Malone about failing to beat him on the basketball court. What makes Malone think he can outwrestle Rodman?

"Because I'm just stubborn enough to say, 'Give me another shot at it,'" Malone said. "He will get beat in the ring. Him and his little coward friend will get beat in the ring."

The four men posed before a crush of TV cameras and photographers. Hogan pointed a finger close to Malone's face, but there were no skirmishes.

"I'd love for Karl to jump on me. I'd sue him all the way to the bank," said Hogan, who stuffed his muscled torso into a tight black T-shirt.

Malone, who weighs 254 pounds to Rodman's 248, isn't worried about an injury jeopardizing his career, although he admitted his team isn't crazy about him taking part.

"I'm not going to get hurt," he said. "A lot of things I do they don't like. I ride Harleys and they don't like that. If I got hurt on a Harley, would they pay me? Who knows? I'm not getting hurt."

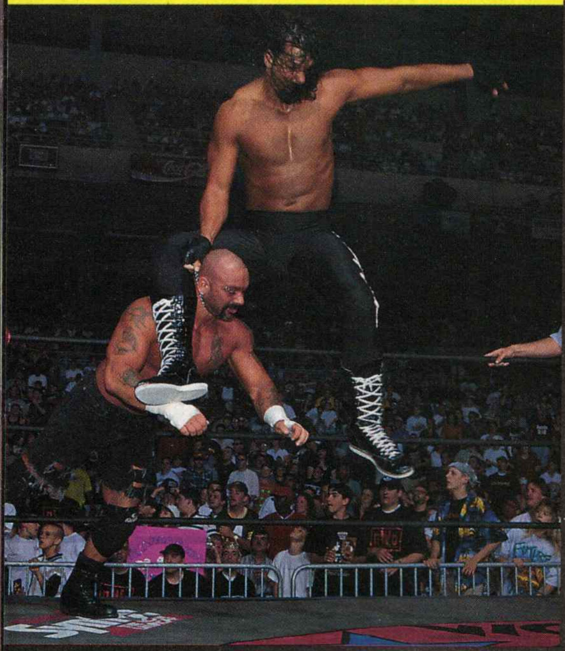
The event came about when Malone spotted Page in the crowd at a Jazz road game in Houston. Malone formed Page's signature "diamond cutter" sign at the wrestler and they later hooked up.

"I told him if anything ever happened to him, I had his back," Malone said. "He said one of these days something might come up, and when they beat him down, he said, 'Hey, I need you.'"

At the Michigan event, Hogan and Page tangled with a chair, and Page took the brunt of the blows. With revenge on his mind, Page called Malone and the "Bash at the Beach" was set.

Still scratching your head as to why the well-respected Malone would engage in wrestling? It's simple.

"You get a chance to hit a guy, you don't go to jail, there's no lawsuit and you get paid for it," he said. "America's great, isn't it?"



From behind THE MASK

Raven has no one to blame but himself for his current problems with Kanyon. Not Saturn. Not Kidman. Not Riggs. Not anyone. No one else is responsible for Raven's woes other than Raven himself. All he had to do was say "Yes" a few months ago and life would be a lot easier.

Mortis wanted to join The Flock more than anyone. He wanted to be accepted by the wrestling community, and The Flock was his way. He approached Raven personally with his plea, but Raven refused.

Now it's going to haunt Raven forever, or, more appropriate, Kanyon is going to hunt Raven forever.

"I wanted to join The Flock, but he didn't allow me. That's why my rage and frustration is vented on him," Kanyon said.

Kanyon's game plan is simple: Strike early and often, from any number of different avenues. If he has to wear a wig to hide himself, so be it. If he has to dress up as a beer vendor, so be it. If he has to dress up as, uh, Mortis, so be it.

Kanyon will answer Raven's refusal.

Mortis is gone, but Kanyon is the phoenix in Raven's nightmares.

"I enjoyed being Mortis. I enjoyed wrestling under the mask, but WCW made it clear to me that they went as far as they wanted to go with Mortis," Kanyon explained.

Back in May, during the incredibly physical Raven/Diamond Dallas Page Bowery Death Match, Kanyon came to life. He sported riot gear, then, when the time was right, struck with a mighty vengeance. With Raven trapped, helpless on the ropes, Kanyon delivered "The Chair Shot Heard 'Round The World."

Kanyon instantly vaulted to the public enemy No. 1 slot in Raven's eyes. Yet to many within the public sector, he delivered the chair shot so many others wanted to see, or do themselves.

"That probably was the most brutal chair shot he's taken in his career," Kanyon said. "I was angry and I took it out on him, and have no regrets about doing so. That was a legitimate metal chair; so I know it had to hurt him; I can only imagine what happened to his skull. My only regret about that chair shot was that I didn't hold it up afterwards so the world could see what happened to that chair.

"I was willing to shed the mask to get what I wanted ... a piece of Raven."

What about Raven's revenge? Any fears?

"No, none at all," Kanyon said without hesitation. "Raven always talks about Barbed Wire City, but let's have it known that I was there five years ago — before he was there. So I'm not afraid of him or chairs. I'm not some rookie to this sport. I've been in the business for over six years, and over three years in WCW. Sure, I'm afraid of eight-on-one attacks, which you often see from Raven's Flock. Only a fool wouldn't be afraid of that. But I don't plan on putting myself in a situation to face an eight-on-one attack."

Kanyon shed the mask to put on more disguises.

"I want Raven and all he has. Please, Raven, bring the chair," Kanyon said.

Kanyon is, without question, one of the most innovative wrestlers in the business today; perhaps the most creative performer around. His countless hours in the WCW Power Plant gym clearly show when he steps through the ropes for a match. Kanyon's offense is ever-changing. He could be the toughest wrestler to battle because his style is one you can't just pop a videotape in the VCR and plan to memorize in 20 minutes. And Kanyon can adapt his attack to others. Put him in there with a high flyer and Kanyon will adapt. Put him in there with a mat specialist and Kanyon will adapt. Put him in their with a super heavyweight and Kanyon will adapt.

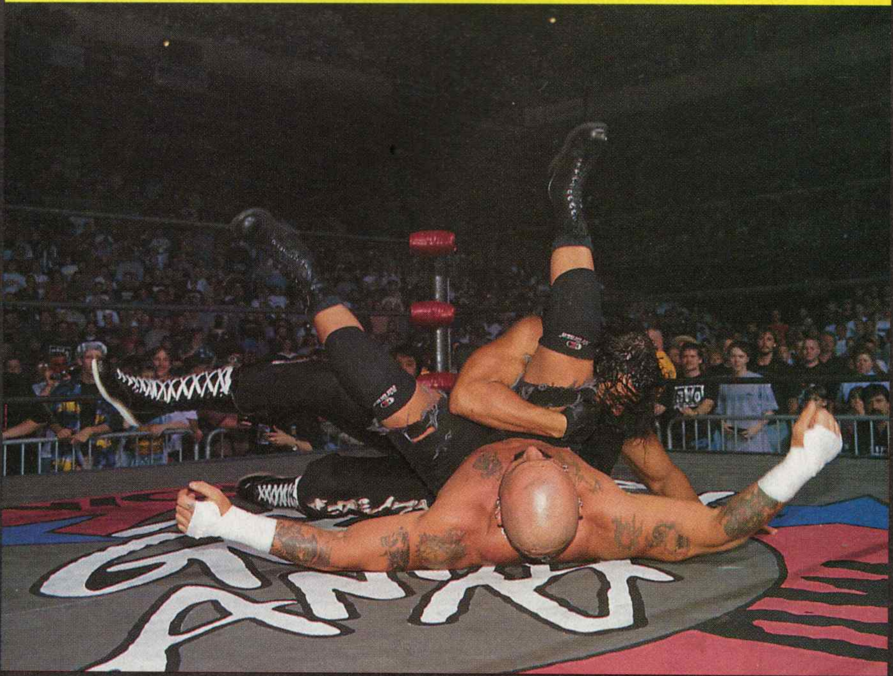
Kanyon clearly gives wrestling a flair for the unique. He takes the common and makes it creative. He takes the creative and improves it to the "wow" stage. He's a master of surprises, not to mention sneak attacks. He calls it "redeveloping" wrestling. And that is done by watching, rewatching and re-rewatching his wrestling videotape collection that is about 500 strong.

Let's see, you've got the powerbomb ... and then there's Kanyon's Powerbomb Neckbreaker.

You've got the legdrop off the top rope ... then you've got Kanyon's Lethal Legdrop.

There's the Samoan Drop ... then there's The Flatliner.

And of course, how can we forget Kanyon's



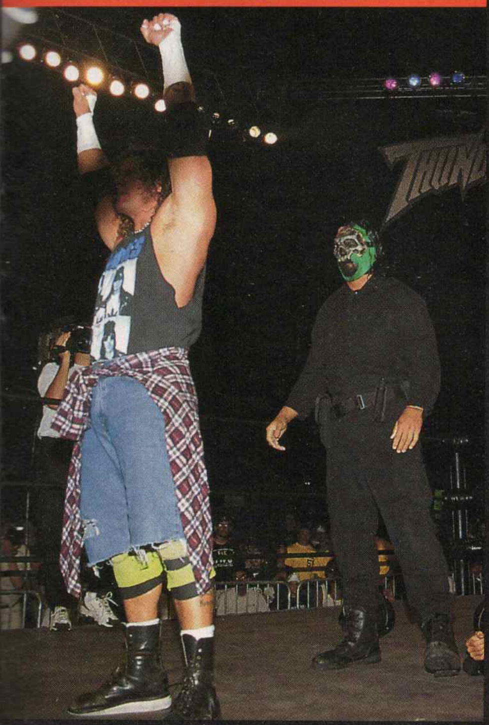
Reverse Russian Legsweep (known as The DOA during his Mortis days).

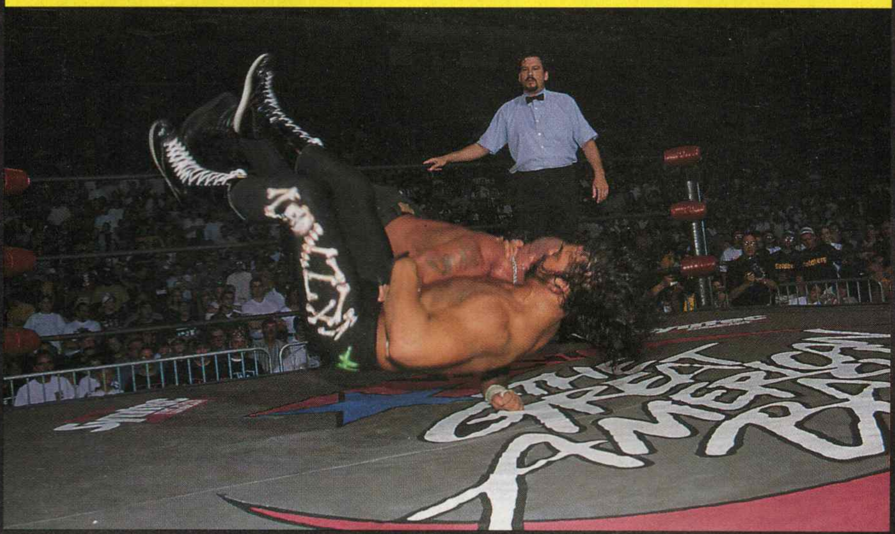
Truly, Kanyon is a Thomas Jefferson of wrestling. And, yes, more moves are forthcoming, specializing in neckbreaker attacks.

Kanyon's wrestling encyclopedia is rooted in his childhood. He grew up in and around the New York City area, and worked in the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Times Square, so Kanyon has had to deal with any number of ornery individuals over the years. He comes from a "tight-knit" family and a flock (not that Flock) of wrestling friends. He lived about five minutes from Sunnyside Gardens, where there was regular wrestling during his childhood.

"I grew up around wrestling; that had a lot to do with where I am, what I am today," said Kanyon, who graduated from Archbishop Malloy High School in Queens in 1988 (same school as the NBA's Kenny Anderson).

Kanyon, a sports buff, was a good student who later attended, and graduated from State University of New York at Buffalo (B.S. in





physical therapy). He was a practicing physical therapist for three years before going to wrestling full time.

"I was smart enough to realize that wrestling was a dream and, if I were to make it, it would be a long shot," said Kanyon. "The biggest regrets you will have in life are the chances you do not take. I could live with trying to be a wrestler and not making it, but I could never live with the 'What if?' thinking. That's why I went to wrestling."

Here are Kanyon's comments about several WCW personalities:

JAMES VANDENBURG

"In my opinion, he is the most under-utilized talent in WCW. This man, in my opinion, can do an interview better than anyone in WCW at this point. He is an absolute talent, incredibly talented. Our association is not over. He is still a friend of mine. Just because I've gone back to my roots doesn't necessarily mean that Vandenburg won't be with me in the future. Only time will tell.

"James has a new interview segment on WCW Saturday Night and hopefully that will grow to a spot on Nitro or Thunder."

WRATH

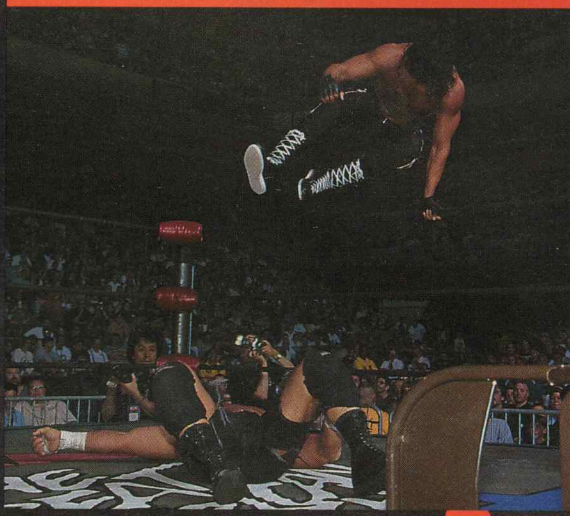
"I've had very little contact with Wrath since December. I'm not sure where his career is headed. There are no hard feelings between Wrath and I, although our careers have basically gone in different directions. I wish him the best."

GOLDBERG

"There's a lot of talk about Goldberg, but what a lot of people seem to forget is this guy is green. He's a rookie. He's running high, mostly on adrenaline, like a knife through butter. I'd like to step in there against Goldberg, to see how I'd do. Just challenging Goldberg says a lot."

DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

"My mentor. Other than my parents, (Jack and Barbara), no one has done more for me in my life than Diamond Dallas Page. That's the truth. DDP saw something in me about two and a half years ago that I didn't even see. Without him, I wouldn't have gotten to where I am at today. I owe him more than he knows."

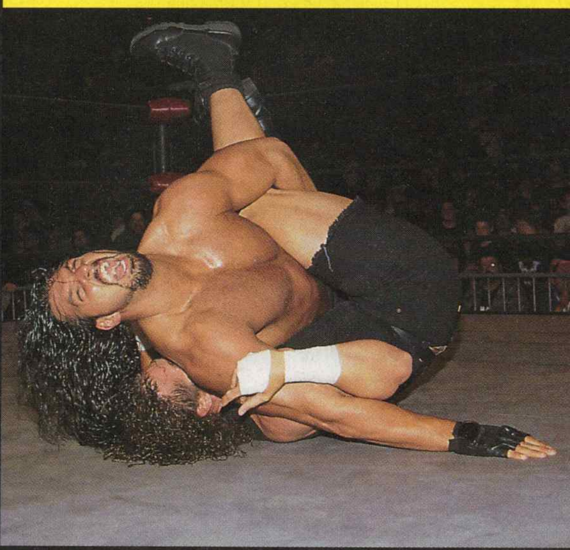


BOOKER T.

"An incredible rise over the last year or so. He's had so many stellar performances. In my opinion, he's probably the most natural, most gifted athlete on the WCW roster today."

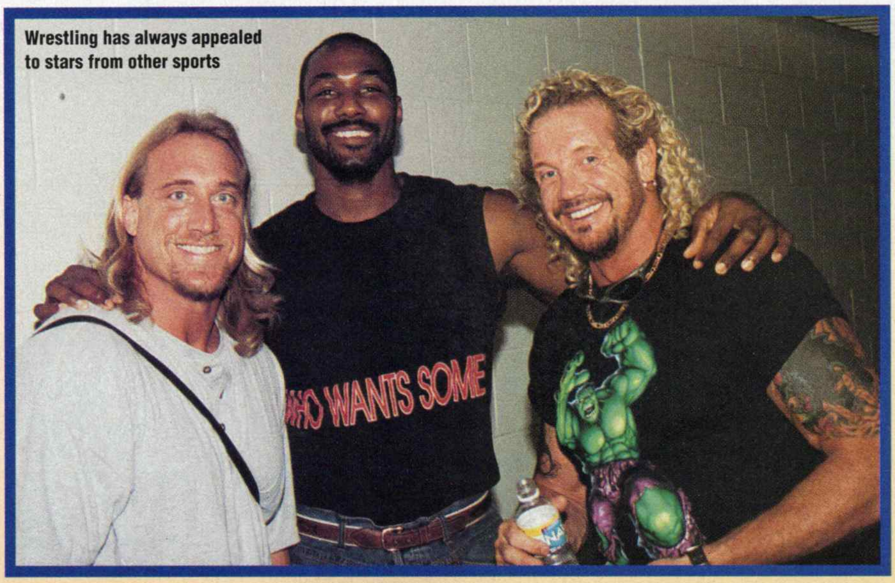
CHRIS BENOIT

"He is a tremendous, tremendous technician. He can do it all. Wrestling-wise, he is one of the most gifted, if not the most gifted wrestler in the company, as far as punishment he can give and punishment he can take."



TALKING POINT

With Mike Tenay



Wrestling has always appealed to stars from other sports

The involvement of Karl Malone, Dennis Rodman and Kevin Greene in recent months at WCW/NWO events has led to, quite simply, incredible amounts of mainstream media coverage and hype. When Rodman decided to skip a Chicago Bulls' practice session during the NBA Finals, to party and throw-down chair-shots with "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan, on Monday Nitro, video footage aired on every conceivable news and sports network. Newspapers around the world featured articles and photos of Rodman and Hogan attacking Diamond Dallas Page at The Palace of Auburn Hills (Mich.) Rodman's appearance was the prime subject on every sports-talk show in America, not just The Score 1160-AM in Chicago. Plain and simple, everyone was talking about Dennis Rodman, WCW and The NWO.

The association made sense for all parties involved, with publicity money just could not buy.

The Nitro spotlight was a perfect fit for Rodman, Malone, Greene and, last year, footballer Reggie White. They all realized that it doesn't hurt to be linked with one of the highest-rated programs on cable TV.

In the ring, all things considered, the pro sports stars made quite an impressive showing. Natural athletic ability is something that just cannot be taught, and while these world-class athletes were limited to basic, elementary wrestling holds and moves, they also integrated their own strongpoints into their bouts. For instance, Rodman's leaping ability was showcased when he was able to leap-frog over The Giant at the 1997 Bash At The Beach in Daytona Beach, Fla.

The fact that none of the athletes are intimidated by large audiences, and are natural hams who connect who the crowd, is a bonus. I've had the opportunity to speak with Rodman, Malone, Greene and White, and they all share one important factor: a love for the wrestling business. Each has been a pro wrestling fan since childhood, and pro wrestling is something they've always wanted to try. Their pro sports reputations allowed them the opportunity they normally wouldn't have had, and all decided to take advantage.

Most wrestling fans, I suppose, are under the impression that this cross-over mania is a new phenomenon in our sport ... not true, not even close. History shows us that big-time athletes have been involved in wrestling for most of this century. In the 1920s, Gus Sonnenberg, a former Dartmouth football star, was among the first to turn to pro wrestling. As a result, Gus made a financial killing. The idea of a famous college athlete like Sonnenberg entering the ring intrigued people and resulted in him becoming a huge drawing-card. Sonnenberg was famous for his outgoing personality, and made a specialty of the flying tackle, reminiscent of his football days, en route to a World Championship reign in 1929.

The 1930s saw football heroes Jumpin' Joe Savoldi (Chicago Bears) and then-future Football Hall of Famer Bronko Nagurski lay claim to World titles. Plus, bouts between boxers and wrestlers came into vogue, featuring former champ Jack Dempsey. In later years, many other boxers stayed in the squared-circle, but gave up their gloves, like Primo Carnera, Tony Galento, Jersey Joe Walcott and even Joe Louis. In fact, one of my earliest memories as a wrestling fan was a Joe Louis appearance as a wrestling referee in Los Angeles, some 30 years ago. The wrestling-boxing tie also includes Archie Moore and The Greatest of All Time, Muhammad Ali. Not only has Ali been a special guest at numerous WCW events, he fought Japanese legend Antonio Inoki in Tokyo in 1976. Inoki, in October 1986, fought boxing great Leon Spinks in Tokyo.

Pro football stars have always loved the mat game because it gave them a chance to make a good living in the off-season. One of wrestling's most-hated villains of all-time was Dick The Bruiser, a former Green Bay Packer. And one of his most-famous rivalries was in the 1970s with ex-Detroit Lion Alex Karras. At the same time, a 6-foot-9, 300-pound San Diego Charger named Ernie "The Cat" Ladd was breaking into the profession. Ladd, who later starred for the Kansas City Chiefs, actually gave up the gridiron for a full-time wrestling gig because the money was better. Of the hundreds of football players who have tried their hand at pro wrestling, one could make the argument that former New York Jet Wahoo McDaniel was the most successful, especially in terms of length of career. In the 1980s, Wahoo held the U.S. title no less than five times. Yep, I'm talking about the same Championship belt that now resides with Goldberg. And how can you talk about football-wrestling without mentioning Steve "Mongo" McMichael, a Super Bowl Champion in the mid-1980s with the Chicago Bears. And Football Hall of Famer Leo Nomellini also wrestled, and even later promoted the sport.

Pro wrestling and other mainstream pro sports ... the connection is not new, just a profitable one for all involved. Heck, one of the biggest, larger-than-life personalities in sports history was, in 1945, a wrestling referee. I'm talking about none other than Babe Ruth.

Best wishes,
Mike.

Let's begin with a riddle. Who has been in the ring for more WCW/nWo matches than anyone else, but has never won or even lost a match? The answer: Ring announcer David Penzer. Although David is our ring announcer, he's also collected a large number of ring-related bumps and bruises. After announcing the participants of a match, Penzer sits on a chair placed near the ring. While fans may think David has the best seat in the house, it has also caused him to be in the wrong place at the wrong time on a number of occasions. He's been slapped, kicked and upended by such men as "Macho Man" Randy Savage, Curt Hennig, The Barbarian and Dean Malenko, among others. Fans might also recall when Chris Jericho ripped three or four of David's tuxedo jackets (causing an estimated $7 in damage.)

Ring announcer Michael Buffer has suffered much the same as Penzer. While Buffer gets WCW/nWo fans "Ready To Rumble," we've seen men like "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan, Sting and "Big Sexy" Kevin Nash rumble right over the top of Buffer.

David Penzer and Michael Buffer are two of our sport's unsung heroes. We have other men who risk life and limb at all WCW/nWo events. Wrestling fans have seen these men and have heard their names spoken hundreds of times. However, these men do not get, nor do they want, a lot of attention. The fact that they do not draw a lot of attention serves as proof positive that they are absolutely the best at what they do. Individually, I'm referring to Nick Patrick, Mark Curtis, Mickey Jay, Charles Robinson, Billy Silverman, Scott Dickenson, Rocky King and Jimmy Jett. Collectively, these men are the WCW referees. These are the true unsung heroes of our sport.

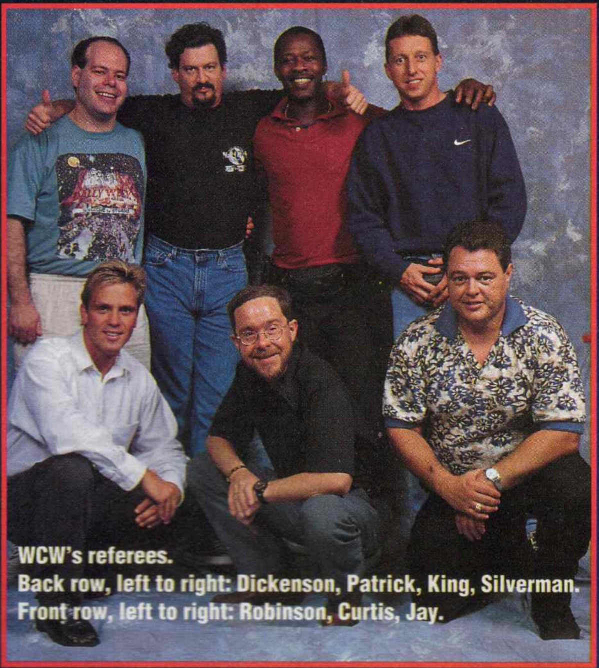
Like officials of other sports, they are vilified by the fans for unpopular decisions and missed infractions. However, upon closer examination, you'll find that our refs make the right calls about 95% of the time, and that's extraordinary when you consider their work environment. Missing a call is not unusual in sports. We've seen baseball umpires make bad calls in World Series play. Super Bowl referees have made some horrible calls, while the same can be said for the refs that have enforced the rules of the NBA and the NHL finals. Unlike officials from other sports, the WCW referees do their job knowing there's good chance they may get chokeslammed, bodyslammed, powerbombed, jackknifed, suplexed or just tossed over the top rope onto the cement floor.

Not only is being a WCW referee a dangerous job, but it often is also a thankless job. While many WCW/nWo wrestlers ride in limousines, fly in chartered jets, stay in five star hotels, eat specially prepared meals and have teams of assistants and personal aides, the referees have a much different lifestyle. They must make their own travel and hotel reservations. Since they pay their own expenses, they usually carpool in a rented mid-size sedan. The typical gourmet meal for our referees is a late-night cheeseburger from a drive-through ... if one is open after the matches.

After a wrestling event, it is not uncommon for some of the athletes to visit the hotel restaurant or lounge. But not the referees. They do not socialize with the wrestlers. Still, these are very interesting individuals who I am proud to know. That said, I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about these very special men. Here goes:

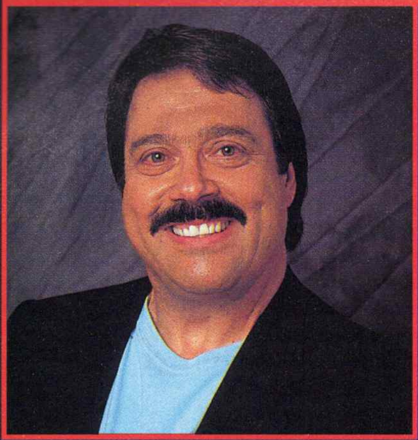
■ Nick Patrick hails from Atlanta and has been in the sport the longest. He has officiated hundreds of World title matches. He's also suffered the most injuries. Nick underwent total knee reconstruction and has pins in both wrists. However, that hasn't prevented him from being a very accomplished guitar player.

■ Mark Curtis is from Pittsburgh and has been nicknamed "The Shooter." Mark was an amateur wrestler, but also one hell of a fighter. Late last year, Mark was diagnosed with cancer. He underwent drastic surgeries and radiation therapy. As the world can see, Mark kicked cancer's butt! He is a collector of Marvel Comics and comic book memorabilia. Mark also is a newlywed.


WCW's referees.
Back row, left to right: Dickenson, Patrick, King, Silverman.
Front row, left to right: Robinson, Curtis, Jay.

The Marshall Plan

By "Stagger" Lee Marshall



■ It has been suggested that Charles Robinson be nicknamed "The Werewolf of London" because, as the song suggest, "his hair was perfect!" Charles was an amateur wrestler, but as a professional referee, he's had his elbow kicked out of its socket, has been powerbombed by Kevin Nash, chokeslammed by The Giant and tossed over the top rope by "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan. Despite this, Charles plays a decent game of tennis.

■ Billy Silverman is from Auburn, Maine, so perhaps that explains why he is an exceptional downhill skier. However, Billy's skiing and ring career was recently threatened. Billy was pushed and pulled at the same time, thus causing a severe groin injury that put him out of action for over a month.

■ Mickey Jay hails from the Quad Cities (Iowa), but is a long-time resident of Southern Florida. He's an avid fisherman and a great mixologist. Personally, there's something from Mickey's past that I find very troubling. As a youngster, Mickey was the president of the "Bobby Heenan Fan Club."

■ Scott Dickenson comes from Boston. He too has been chokeslammed by The Giant and double-teamed by The Outsiders. Away from the ring, you'll likely find Scott at a baseball game. Of course he's a Red Sox fan, but Scott will travel early to a city, just to see a baseball game before the matches.

■ Jimmy Jett hails from Florida and is, perhaps, the most patient of our referees. For that reason, he often is assigned matches which include rookies or younger wrestlers. That usually puts Jimmy out of harm's way.

■ Rocky King brings an interesting perspective to the ring. Before being a professional referee, he was a professional wrestler. That's one of the reasons Rocky, like Jimmy, often handles matches with rookies. Rocky knows how badly these young men want to succeed. At the same time, he knows what they're going through. For that reason, he will make sure the rookie wrestlers tap out if he feels they are on the receiving end of a career-ending injury.

In closing, as usual, here are a few "Did You Know" facts:

■ The ring announcer who popularized wearing a tuxedo was Jimmy Lennon. Jimmy also was a singer and the uncle of the singing "Lennon Sisters."

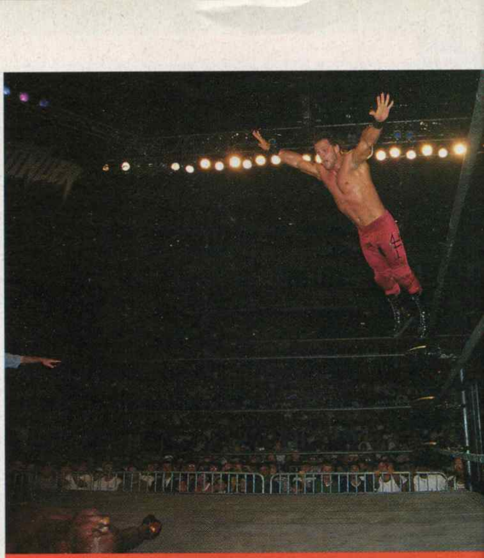
■ Before he was a ring announcer, Michael Buffer had a respectable ring career as a boxer when he was in the Army.

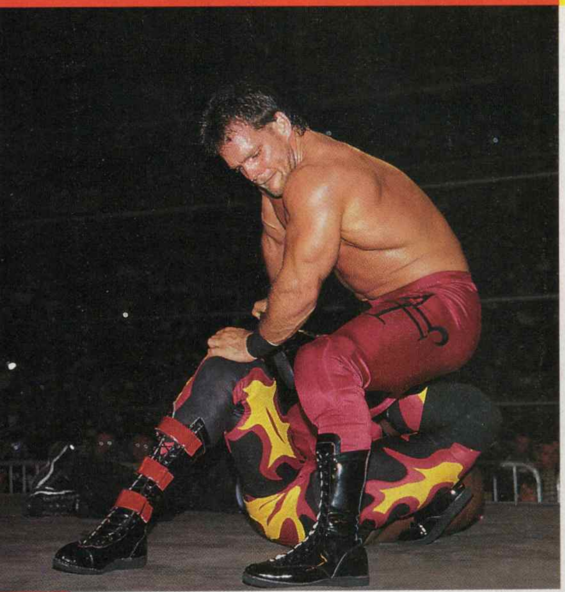
■ Ring announcer David Penzer has webbed toes. This allows him to swim very fast, but disqualified him from sanctioned swimming competitions.

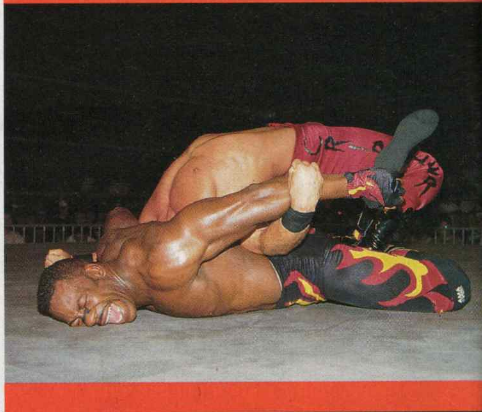
Best wishes this month,
"Stagger Lee"

THE best OF THE best

Imagine watching the same two wrestlers going at it in the ring seven – make that eight – times in a span of just a few weeks. Well, at least it would be a good time for a snack break or a walk to the concession stand after the first couple of matches. That's what many people would think when they hear that a "Best of Seven" series is about to begin. But then, when you are talking about Booker T. and Chris Benoit, you are not talking about just any wrestlers. You are talking about two of the most intense and talented guys in the business and it was quite obvious after the second or third match that there was going to be no lack of excitement, no rehashed moves, no reduction in the intensity in any of the matches. In fact, if possible, each match in the Best of Seven series seemed to grow in intensity and pure excitement.







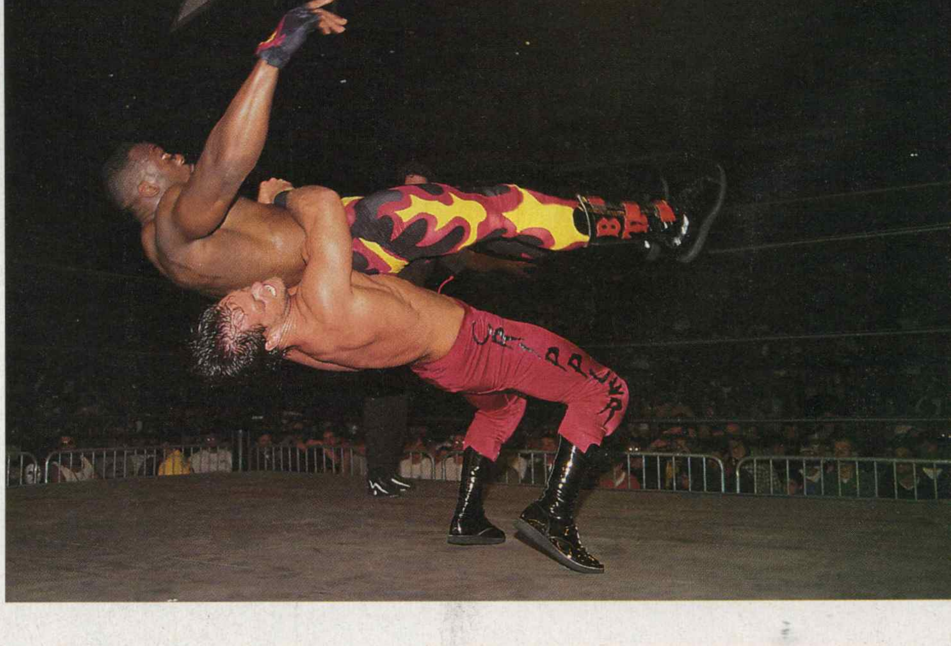
"What kept people interested in the matches was that it was not a 'bad' guy versus a 'good' guy match up but a match up of two guys who were there to wrestle, not cheat, not face rake, but to actually wrestle each other. It became a highly intense and anticipated match up with the fans," Booker T. said of the series.

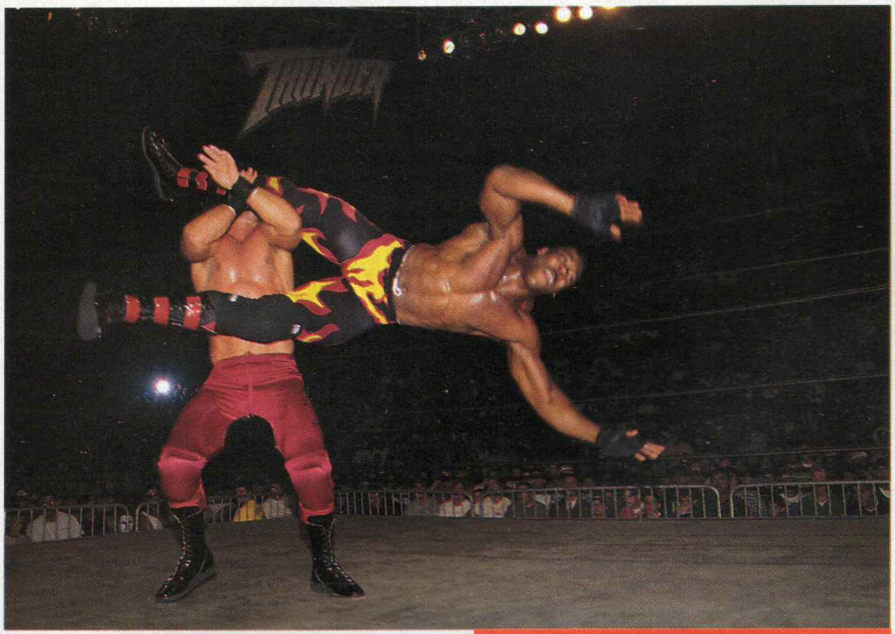
Chris Benoit agreed totally. "The difference between our matches and some others was that I was in there against a 'wrestler'," he said of Booker T. "Very few times did we take the matches outside the ring and I think that is what was so different for the fans. We didn't cheat, we didn't bring foreign objects into the ring. It was pure competitive wrestling."

With all the animosity in WCW and the NWO factions, these two grapplers have nothing but respect for one another. In fact, they have so much respect for one another that Benoit refused to take the easy win when Bret Hart hit Booker T. with a chair out of the referee's view, and Booker T. agreed to wrestle Benoit again rather than win that seventh match by DQ because of Hart. Both wanted to win — or lose — fair and square.

"When I stepped in the ring with Benoit, I already respected him as a wrestler, but not as a man," Booker T. said. "As the series went on, I gained respect for Chris as a man as well as a wrestler. He didn't want to win the easy way, he showed the world that night that he not only is talented but has respect for himself and his abilities and wasn't willing to take the easy way out."

And the feeling is mutual for Benoit.





"Through the series, I've gained a lot more respect for Booker T.. Just being in the ring with him and feeling his tenacity, his drive and his will; he's truly an amazing athlete," Benoit said.

Indeed, the fans saw two wrestlers, both of whom were immensely popular going into the series, come out winners in many ways. Their ability to keep up the excitement level and give 100% time and time again was not lost on the fans watching. When their matches were going on, no one was taking a snack break. All eyes were on the ring, watching and wondering what was going to happen next and who was going to win and how.

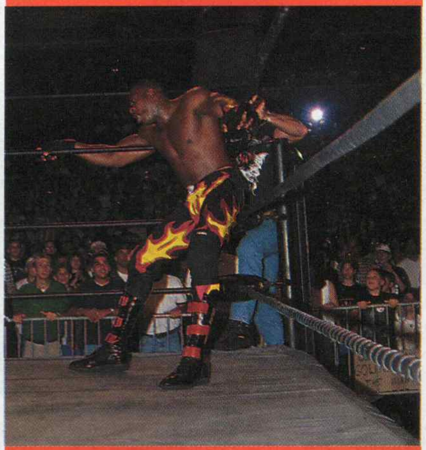
"It's funny to say in a sport that is professional wrestling, but a lot of opponents you end up in the ring with don't like to abide by the rules or they like to take the match outside the ring," said Benoit. "I'm more of a wrestler than a brawler or a street fighter and would rather do it all in the ring."

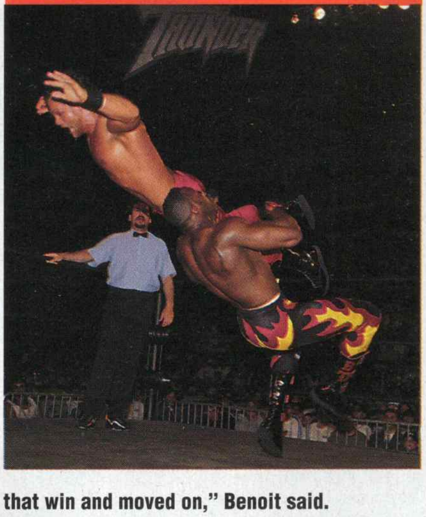
At one point, Benoit was up 3 to 1 on Booker T. It looked like Benoit was on his way to a title shot with then TV Champ, Fit Finlay, when Booker T. took back the series and evened the score. The seventh and supposed final match was rudely interrupted by Bret Hart, who, in a NWO Hollywood recruiting effort, smacked an unwitting Booker T. on the back with a chair and motioned for Benoit to take the win, to cover Booker T. and move onto the title shot. Benoit opted to tell the referee what happened and gave the DQ win to Booker T.

"When I do win a match, I win it by wrestling and I don't want to win a match any other way," Benoit explained. "Win, lose or draw, when I step in that ring, I give it my all. I don't look for loopholes to help me win."

Booker T. was deeply moved by the man who is Chris Benoit. "Chris Benoit is the best technician, best wrestler, best fighter I have ever been in the ring with. The series actually took me to a whole other level. There is a lot of talk about 'dream matches'. Well, I had eight of them. And the man, Chris Benoit, is one who earned every ounce of respect he gets."

"When Booker T. agreed to throw out match seven and wrestle me again, in a clean, fair match, I knew he was a man who far outclasses a lot of guys who would have taken





that win and moved on," Benoit said.

Match eight took place at this year's Great American Bash in May. Both men were as intense as they ever were, wrestling a long, even match. In the end, Booker T. came out the victor and went on to wrestle Fit Finlay and win the TV Title that night.

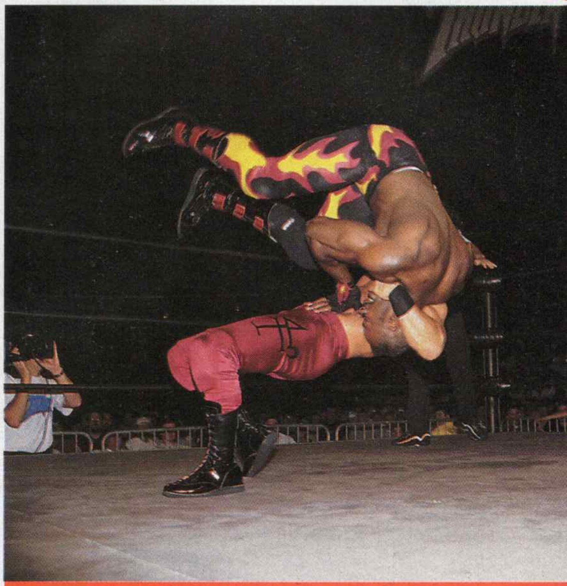
"I don't think it was the better man who won that last match I had with Benoit, I just had a better day," Booker T. said.

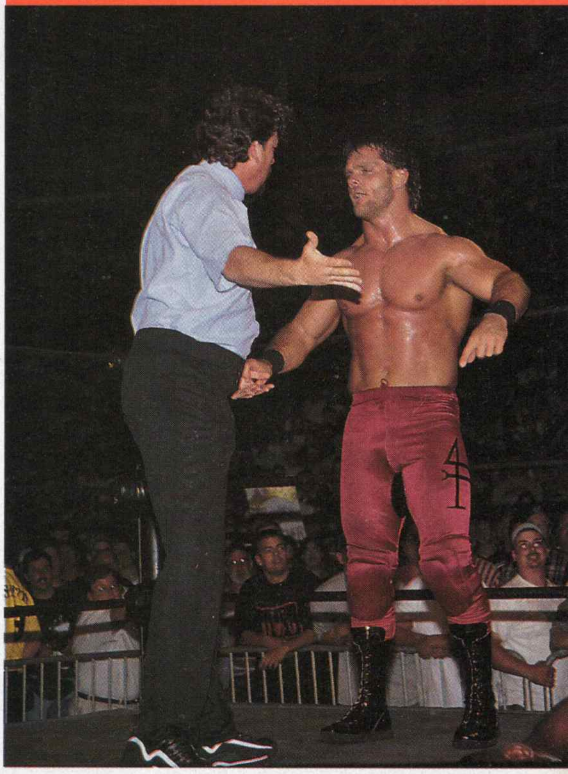
Benoit takes the defeat as just another day at the office. "I did my best in all the matches and I came real close. I'll go on and fight another day. Booker T. had a little more in him than I did that night. He won and I lost. But at least I can say that I gave it my all, 100%," he said.

Fans could easily recognize that both were giving 100% in each match. There were no long pauses or "boring" chants throughout the series. One fan wrote to WCW/nWo Magazine commending both men and even asking for another series between the two! "Nobody kept me on the edge of my seat like Benoit and Booker T. did. I expected since Benoit was the smaller of the two that he would get crushed. But that was not so at all," wrote Brian Williams of Orlando, Fla.

Speaking of size, we seem to recall Booker T.'s comment on never wanting to wrestle a Cruiserweight. Has that changed now that he sees a "small" guy can take him to the distance and beyond?

Booker holds firm to his convictions that he will only wrestle heavyweights. "Benoit may be small in stature but what he lacks in size, he makes up in heart," he said. "No, my opinion hasn't changed about wrestling small guys. There are no Guerreros, no Malenkos in my future. I have the size advantage with these guys. I'd rather stick to heavyweights. Booker T. is moving uptown!"





That ENTRANCE

By Patty Therre

There have been tremendous entrances in wrestling before, but none compare with the in-the-pyro walk that Goldberg makes as he enters the arena to take on his next victim, er, opponent. WCW/nWo Magazine wanted to know why the flashy entrance for such a decidedly unflashy guy.

"They had some different pyro that they wanted to experiment with and who better to experiment on than me," Goldberg explained. "I don't know of many other people who have the cajones to do it. It's just like incorporating new moves; I try to do different things. I try to be different than everyone else and I think that separates me from the rest and it's something I enjoy."

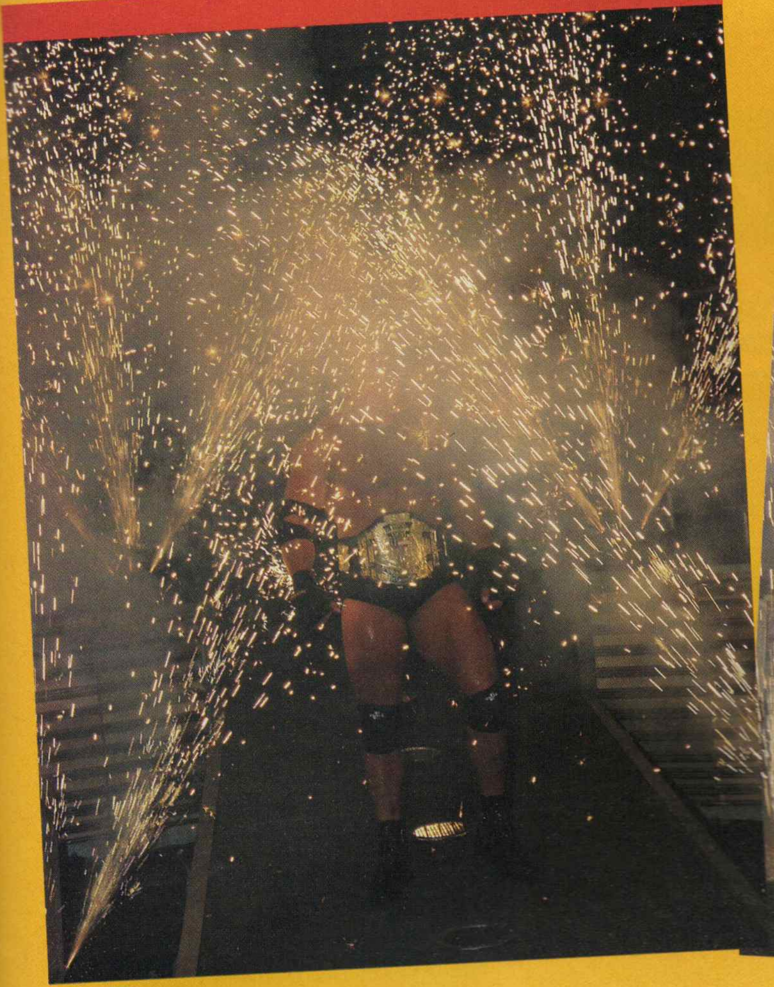
It sure is different. The sound effects alone could leave a person's ears ringing for weeks and the flames pouring down on your head can be a bit intimidating. "Well it helps that I don't have any hair," Goldberg joked. "I can't set on fire as fast as some of the other guys."

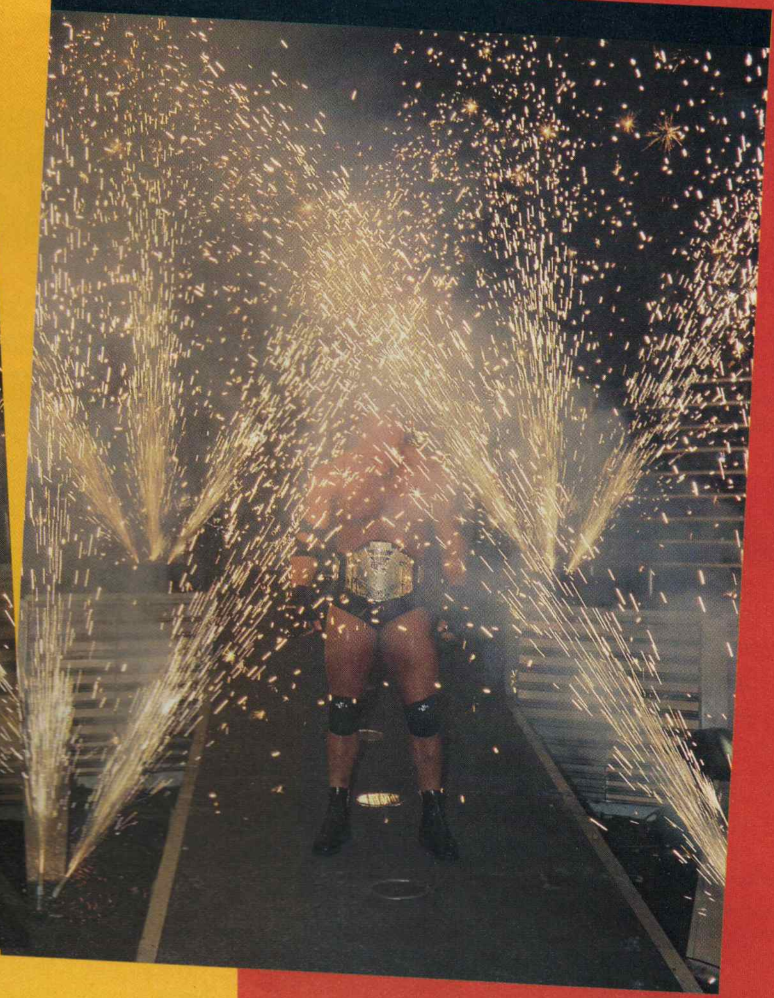
A standard Goldberg response. This is a man who seemingly fears nothing and will try anything at least once. There is one good aspect to his pyro walk. "It definitely psyches me up if it is possible that I can get any more psyched up than I already am coming into a match. Just standing there with the sparks flying around me — yeah I definitely get pumped up for my matches standing there," he said.

What about the fans screaming his name? How does that feel to the relative rookie who, only less than a year ago, was a total unknown in the pro wrestling world? "I feel honored. It's something that I never expected and something that each and every time I hear it (the fans chanting his name), I'm floored," he said sincerely.

Goldberg isn't interested in what group is the coolest, or who is "bowdy bowdy." He just wants to go out there and give them all a whipping. "I have no desire to join any faction. I'm going to stick with what has gotten me here," he said. "I don't need a valet, I don't need a manager, I don't need other guys

The lights dim as the crowd jumps to their feet in unison, screaming his name. He comes out onto the ramp and the chants of his name become even more deafening. The pyro goes off, shooting white-hot sparks into the air. He walks into the shooting sparklers then pauses as the shimmering firestorm rains down upon him. Then, as the sparks begin to flicker out, a loud BOOM is heard that rocks the arena and psyches up the already super-psyched undefeated WCW World Heavyweight Champion. Goldberg is ready for his next match.

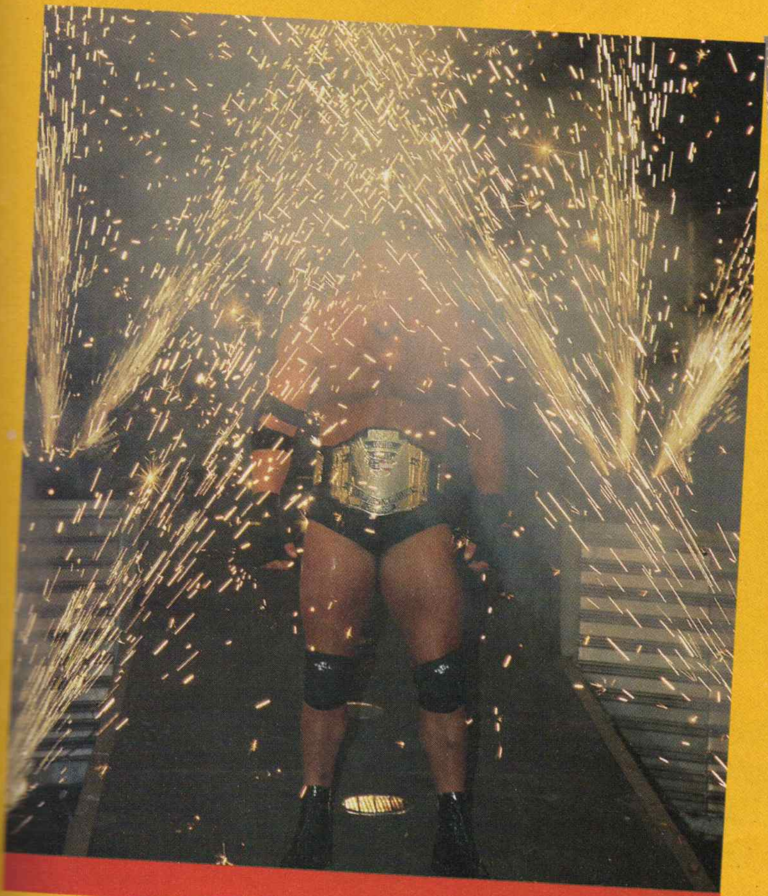


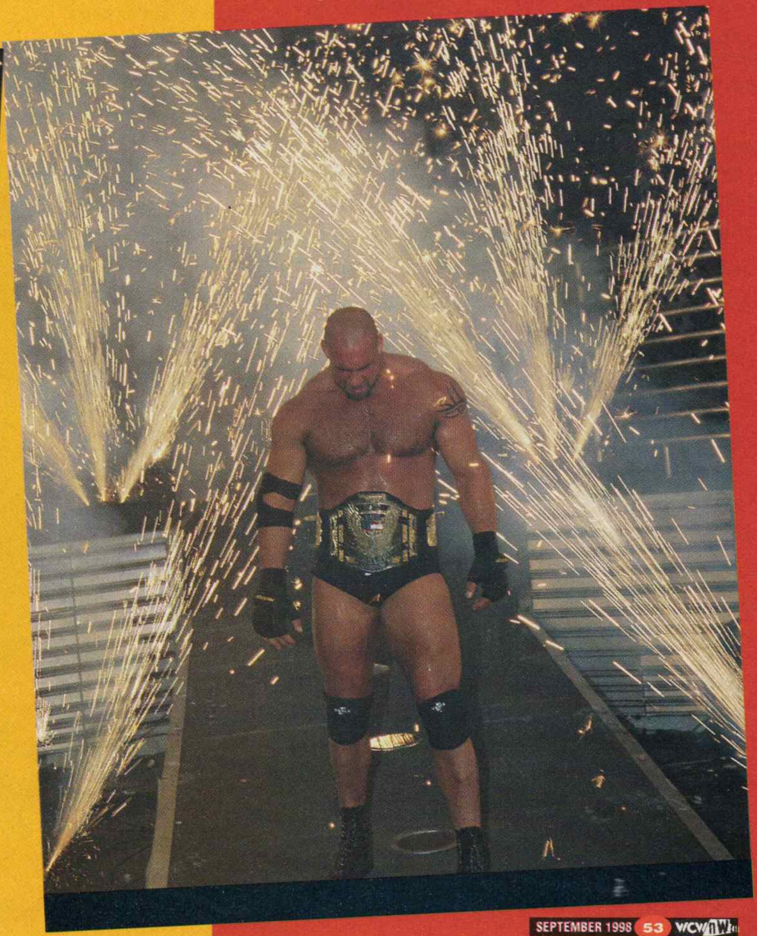


watching my back. I like to think I can take care of things on my own and, if I can't, then I'll get 'em later."

Another thing Goldberg insists on is that he doesn't distinguish any of his opponents as more or less important than any other wrestler. To him, every opponent is a threat; every opponent is a challenge. "I would like to take on every single person in the world of professional wrestling so I can improve myself against each and every one of them," he said. "I don't really have my targets set on anybody in particular.

I like competition and whomever it may be on any given night, so be it. I take care of them the same way I do everyone I wrestle. When I walk through that pyro and into the ring, everyone looks the same to me, no matter who they are."

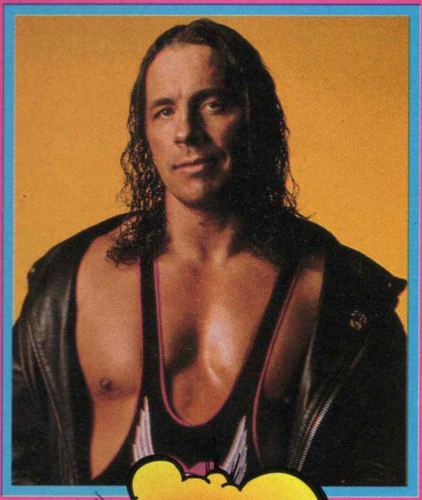




What's inside the refrigerator? Both the good and the bad. We want to know.

2Q two question INTERVIEW

That's why this month we're asking:
1. What is your favorite candy bar?
2. What is your favorite fruit?
The questions were provided by Alan Stone of Mexico City.



BRET HART
1. Coffee Crisp
2. Bananas

DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE
1. Nestle Crunch
2. Oranges

CHAE
1. Twix
2. "Strawberries, but they have to be good."

JAMES J. DILLON
1. Mounds
2. Apples

WHISPER
1. York Peppermint Patties
2. Kiwi

SPICE
1. $100,000 Bars
2. Cantaloupe

FYRE
1. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
2. Tangerine

PAUL ORNDORFF
1. Snickers
2. Watermelon

LEE MARSHALL
1. "Frozen M&Ms, plain."
2. California avocado.

KIMBERLY
1. "I don't eat sweets."
2. Bananas

BOBBY EATON
1. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
2. Bananas

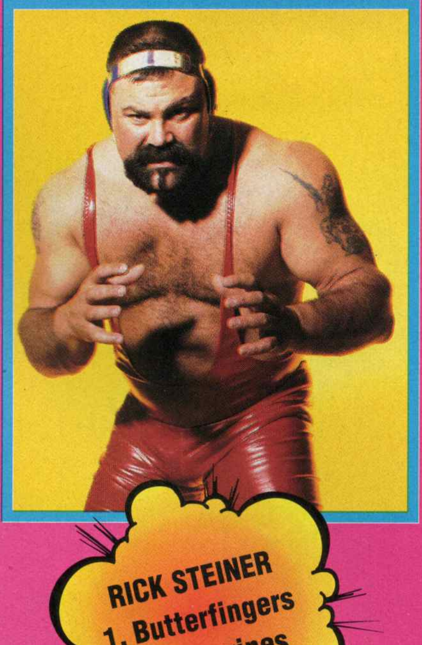
PRINCE IAUKEA
1. Almond Joy
2. Mangos

GLACIER
1. M&Ms (with peanuts)
2. Bananas

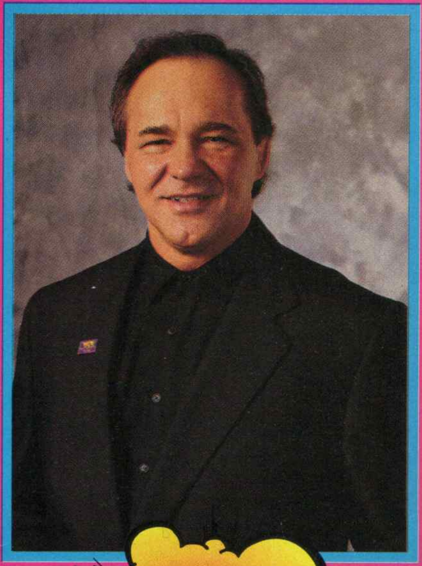
ERNEST MILLER
1. Milky Way
2. Apples

JUVENTUD GUERRERA
1. Bar None
2. Grapes

BILLY SILVERMAN
1. Nestle Crunch
2. Apples



RICK STEINER
1. Butterfingers
2. Nectarines



LARRY ZBYSZKO
1. Babe Ruth
2. "Fresh pineapple."

TED DiBIASE
1. $100,000 Bar
2. Strawberries

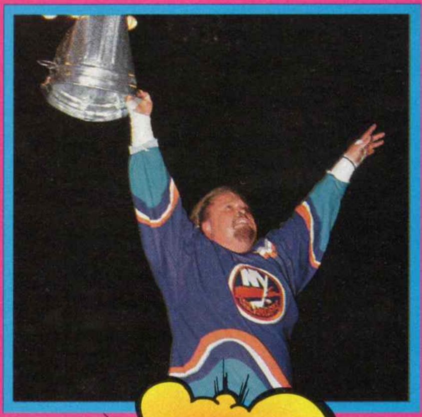
MENG
1. Kudos
2. Pineapple

THE BARBARIAN
1. Three Musketeers
2. Apple

JIM NEIDHART
1. Godiva chocolate
2. Apricots

JERRY FLYNN
1. Payday
2. Naval oranges

JIM POWERS
1. Snickers
2. Cantaloupes



JOHNNY GRUNGE
1. Snickers
2. Bananas

DAVEY BOY SMITH
1. Snickers
2. Bananas

MARTY JANNETTY
1. Three Musketeers
2. Pomegranates

SCOTTY RIGGS
1. Red Twizzlers
2. Bananas

RENEGADE
1. Twix
2. Pineapple

ROCCO ROCK
1. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
2. Oranges

STEVE McMICHAEL
1. Snickers
2. Grapes

BRIAN ADAMS
1. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
2. Bananas

CHRIS JERICHO
1. Babe Ruth
2. Grapes

DAVID PENZER
1. 3 Musketeers
2. Pineapples

NICK PATRICK
1. Payday
2. Kiwi

KEVIN NASH
1. Babe Ruth
2. "Roddy Piper."

NORMAN SMILEY
1. Whatchamacallit
2. Mango

SUPER CALO
1. Skittles
2. Bananas

EL DANDY
1. Babe Ruth
2. Pineapple

PSYCHOSIS
1. Snickers
2. Bananas

SONNY ONOO
1. $100,000 Bar
2. Strawberries

KAZ HAYASHI
1. "Chocolate-covered strawberries."
2. Bananas

ULTIMO DRAGON
1. Kit Kat
2. Oranges

YUJI NAGATA
1. Rice crackers
2. Watermelons

CICLOPE
1. Rocky Road
2. Watermelon

La PARKA
1. "The whole Nitro bowl of candy."
2. Grapes

"BUFF" BAGWELL
1. Snickers
2. Bananas

DOUG DELLINGER
1. Mounds
2. Bananas

JIMMY HART
1. Hershey bar with almonds
2. Bananas

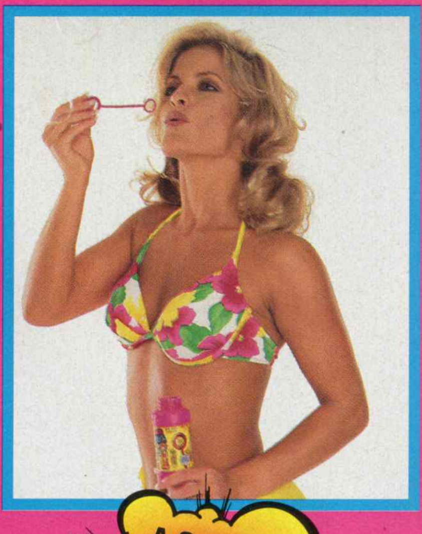
SICK BOY
1. Mr. Goodbar
2. Strawberry

DAMIAN
1. Milky Way
2. Papaya

SATURN
1. "I don't eat candy."
2. Bananas

CHARLES ROBINSON
1. Snickers
2. Apples

GIANT
1. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
2. Strawberries



A.C. JAZZ
1. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
2. "Chocolate-covered strawberries."

ELIZABETH
1. Snickers
2. Apples

DISCO INFERNO
1. Chunky
2. Granny Smith apples

CHAVO GUERRERO, Jr.
1. Snickers
2. Watermelon

EDDY GUERRERO
1. El Twixo
2. Beans

ARN ANDERSON
1. Reese's
2. Cantaloupe

REY MYSTERIO, Jr.
1. Whatchamacallit
2. Pineapple

RAGE
1. "I don't eat candy."
2. Granny Smith apples.

KAOS
1. Reese's peanut butter cups
2. Red grapes

KIDMAN
1. Snickers
2. Kiwi

VILLANO 4
1. Peanut M&Ms
2. Mango

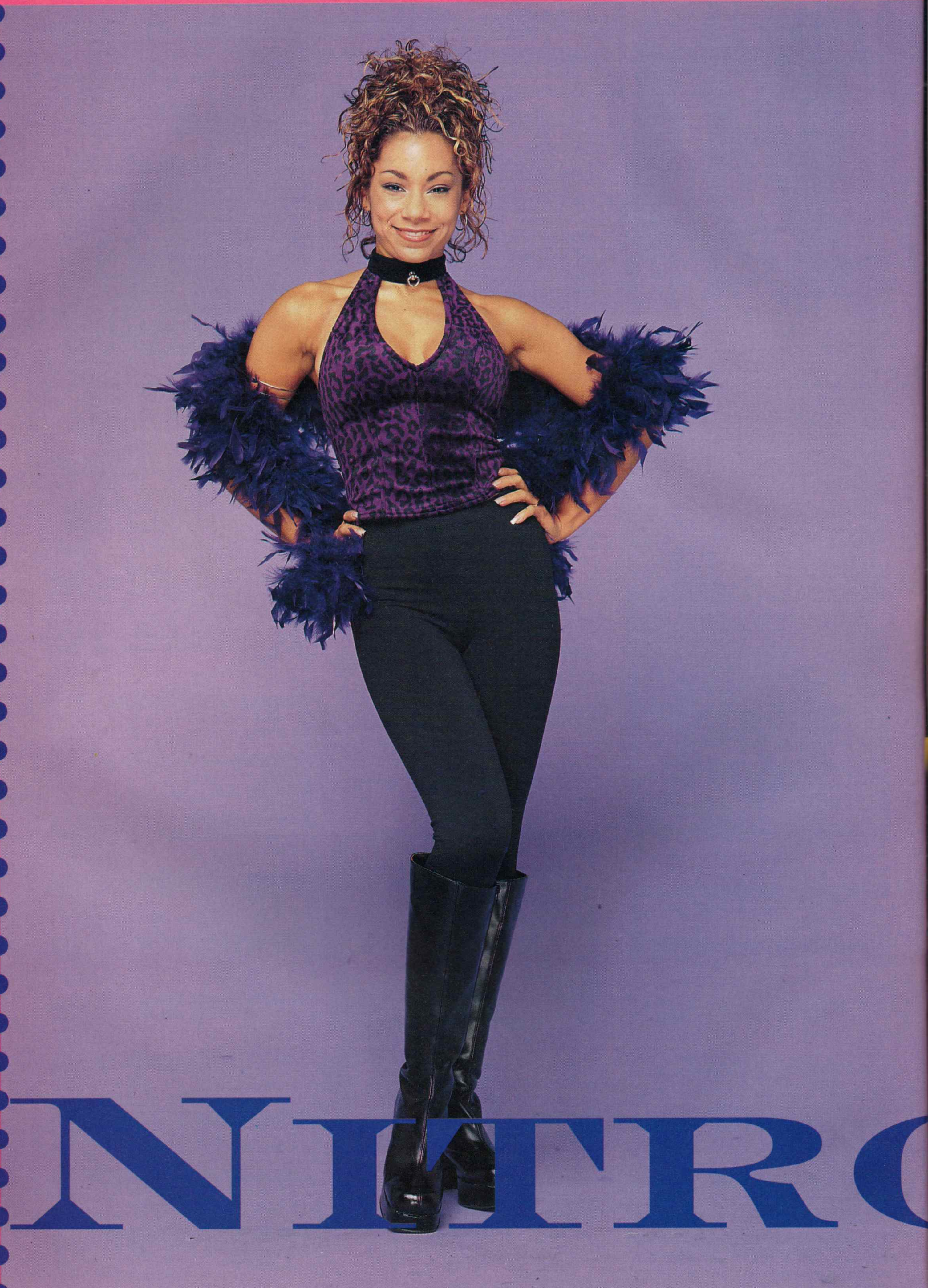
VILLANO 5
1. Hershey white chocolate
2. Peaches

BOOKER T.
1. Snickers
2. Bananas

STEVIE RAY
1. Mars
2. Oranges

CHIP MINTON
1. Snickers
2. Apples

VINCENT
1. Mounds
2. Tangerines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PROFILE ON TYGRESS

The Nitro Girls has added a new Girl to their roster! Tygress, who started with the girls this past June 2nd, is getting into the Nitro Girl groove and learning what makes the Girls tick.

Tygress should have no trouble fitting in with sports hottest dance team. "I have been dancing ever since I was two years old," she said. "Ever since I could walk, I was dancing."

She took a variety of dance classes throughout her childhood including ballet, jazz, and hip hop. In high school, she was a cheerleader and an outstanding student.

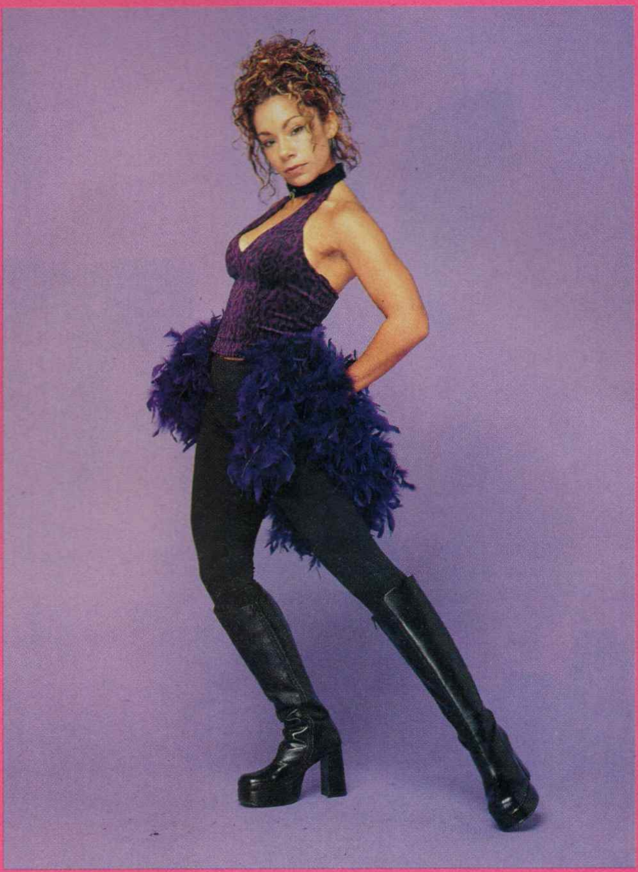
"Dance pretty much consumed my life," Tygress said about her high school days. There was no time for other hobbies. At 16, she began to dance professionally, as well as working fashion shows, modeling and doing some acting.

"I've been a background dancer for Chubby Checker," Tygress said. "I have done music videos for local artists and have done a couple of commercials for Ladies Work Out Express and Lord Abbott."

She also worked with Tony Award winner George Faison (The Wiz) in a musical called "Keep the Faith."

Dance may have consumed this talented lady's life but somewhere along the line she managed to move to Atlanta to attend Oglethorpe College. Majoring in accounting, Tygress is now a Certified Public Accountant, working with the prestigious firm of Deloitte and Touche. Her work was such that she was able to get the summers off to pursue dancing and acting opportunities, an arrangement that she said worked just great for her.

"I could never just give up dancing altogether. Working at the firm allowed me a steady income and an interesting career, and having the freedom of working on my creative side — dancing, acting and modeling — in the summers was the best situation that I could have hoped for," she said.



So how did Tygress go from C.P.A. to Nitro Girl? "It was really a luck thing," she said about her chance to become a Nitro Girl. "I was working out at a gym when I overheard that Kimberly was looking for another Nitro Girl. I went straight for the phone and called Spice, whom I had known for awhile, then called Kim, whom I had met about a year ago. I was given an audition and to my delight, I was picked!"

Now she is learning the routines, getting to know the other Girls and gaining her confidence as she performs live in front of thousands of fans in the arenas and millions who watch Nitro weekly. "It's always a challenge getting to know new people and being in new situations," she said. "But the Girls have been really nice to me and have helped me to get to know the routines. I have been welcomed with opened arms and that really helps a lot."

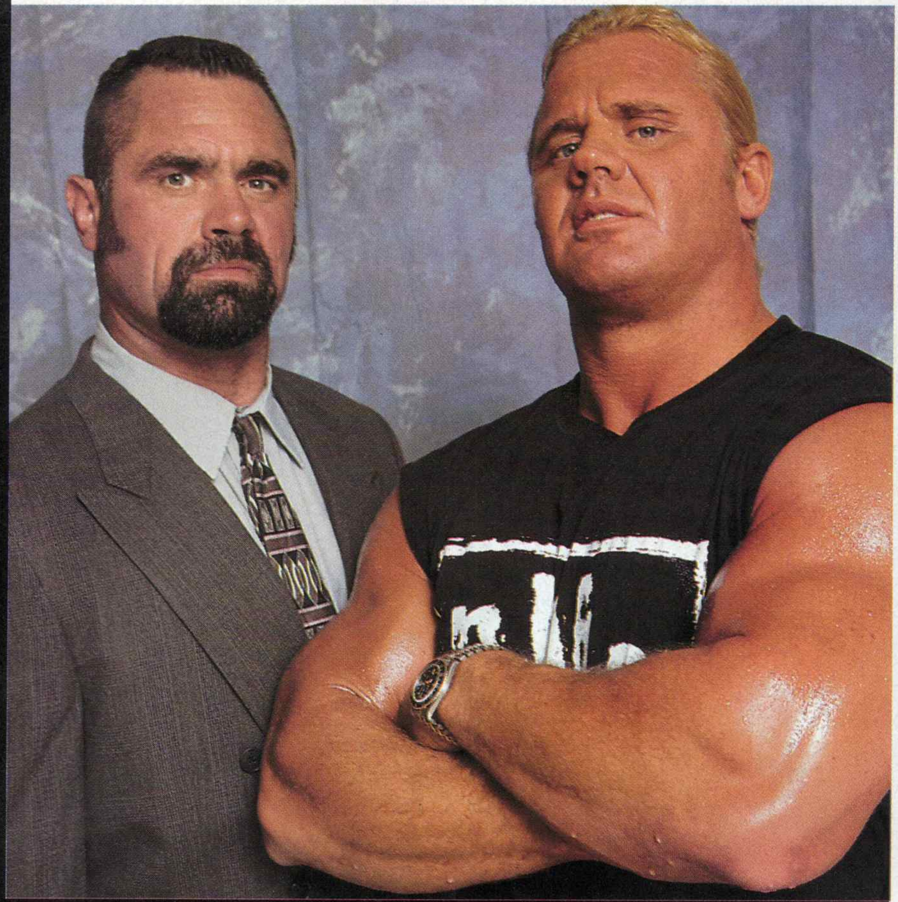
Tygress said she is just standing back and making observations, not yet adding too much input into the routines. "I am just trying to get up to speed with everyone else. I am learning four routines a week, which the other Girls already know so I am very much the new kid on the block."

She certainly looks like a seasoned pro out there on stage. She has done solo performances and fits in beautifully with the other Girls. If she is having any pre-performance jitters, they all disappear when she steps onstage.

Tygress looks at life as something to embrace. "What I think is most important is to make sure that whatever consumes your life makes you happy. Life is too short to do things that aren't your passion," she said.

Certainly Tygress is living by this credo. And along the way, she is making many others very happy every Monday night. We, at WCW/nWo Magazine, welcome Tygress into the Nitro Girls and the WCW/nWo family.

Girls

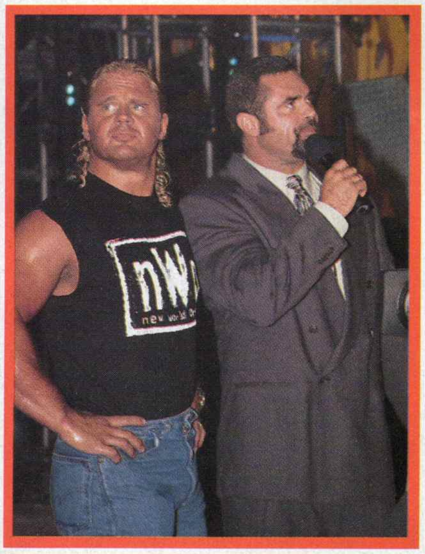


Mercenaries

mer'ce'nary *(noun), plural* -nar'ies, one that serves merely for wages

A mat veteran, Konnan should have known better. Seriously, Konnan really should have known better. Or at least been a bit skeptical, and had some backup nearby. Where was his bud Kevin Nash, or even a lucha libre friend from south of the border to come to his aid?

Curt Hennig, trying to maintain his perfect poker face, said he had an incredible offer for the ever-opportunistic Konnan: "I'm still suffering from my knee injury. Would you do me — and The Wolfpac — a huge favor and replace me in the Great American Bash Pay-Per-View match against Goldberg? You know I'd love to wrestle Goldberg and stop his winning streak, if I could, but, I just don't feel 100 percent healthy.



"Please help me. Please help the team."

Konnan bought it — hook, line and sinker. Then got skunked. In fact, he got it twice that Sunday night in Baltimore, Md. First, obviously, Konnan was obliterated by the man-monster known as Goldberg. Then Hennig and his sidekick, Rick Rude, turned their backs on Konnan and the entire NWO Wolfpac.

A surprise? Yeah, about as much as smiling kids' faces at Disney World.

Hennig's track record, as unscrupulous as it might be, is pretty predictable. Hennig is in it for Hennig. Nothing more, nothing less. If that means stepping over someone, he'll do it. If that means stepping on someone, he'll do it. If that means walking through someone, you bet, that too.

Hennig is the ultimate con artist. Just ask Diamond Dallas Page or The Four Horsemen. Hennig's route to the top isn't just by scratching and clawing, but stabbing others. No one stabs anyone in the back faster than Hennig. He works with a razor sharp knife. And salt in there for extra excitement as well.

And he loves that approach completely. So does Rick Rude, his childhood chum.

"When I came here last year, I was NWO from the start. So why is it a surprise, a shock that I'm with ("Hollywood" Hulk) Hogan again?" Hennig said. "The masterpiece that Rick Rude and I have been planning and plotting is now taking place; that's what's so entertaining to us. It's about time people lift their heads up, open their eyes and realize that Curt Hennig and Rick Rude, together, are unstoppable. That means against anyone, at any time. The wrestling world needs to realize that Curt Hennig and Rick Rude didn't come to the scene in WCW/nWo to play second fiddle to anyone. We've been on top of the wrestling game for the past 15 years, and now is the time the world starts realizing that fact. Curt Hennig and Rick Rude, together, are the real danger, the real excitement, the real entertainment of this sport. And there are no two individuals in the sport who are better at this than Rick Rude and Curt Hennig."

That is, the game of we'll-swerve-you-before-you-swerve-us. Trust? Forget it. That evidently isn't taught in the Robinsdale (Minn.) Public School System. Hennig and Rude have been the premiere bait and switch players in pro wrestling for years. And also away from the ring, like the eighth grade prank with a white rat and an annoying teacher. Both laugh, then brag they never were busted.

But why Konnan, a Mexican legend and loyal friend? Why doublecross him?

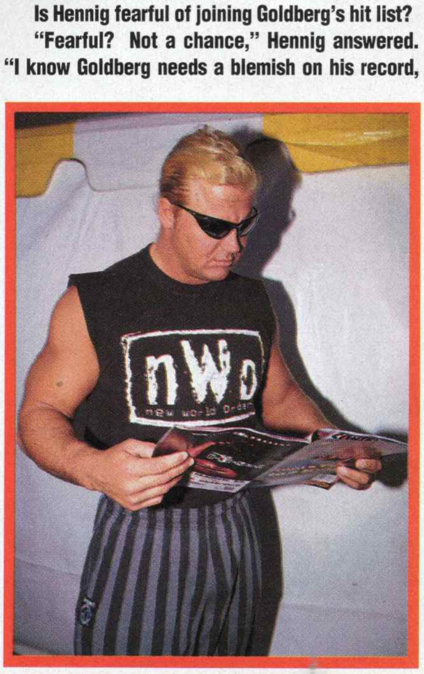
"Because he's a nothing, a no one," Hennig said. "He's nothing but a nowhere going midget. To tell you the truth, I didn't like him from the moment I met him. So why did I do what I did? Because I thought he needed a lesson in respect. To toy with Konnan, that's nothing for Curt Hennig and Rick Rude. That was like a walk in the park, a no brainer."

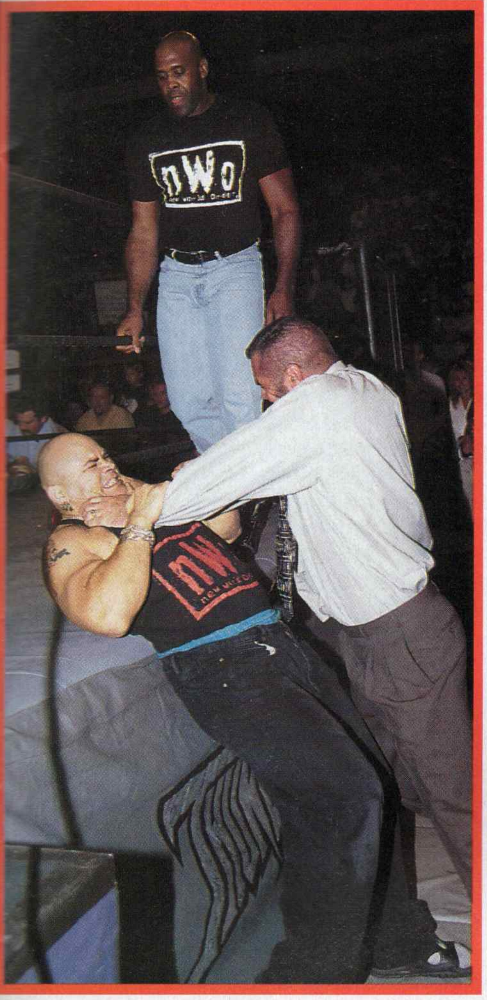
Added Rude, "I've never really thought too much about Konnan's wrestling. In fact, I've never thought anything about him at all. He's nothing more than something, someone to humor us with. Hey, when you're on the road as much as we are, ya need things to humor us. Getting Konnan to agree to a match with Goldberg was just Curt and I amusing ourselves."

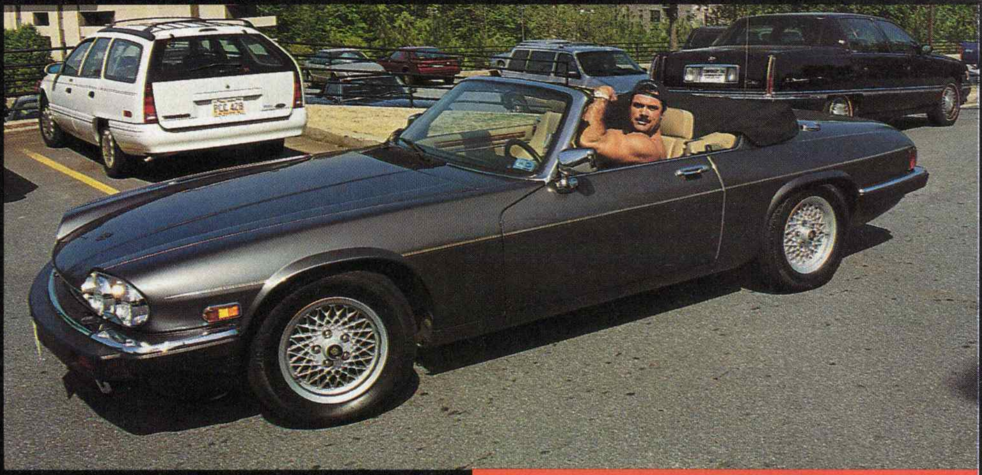
Hennig was slated to team with Giant at the mid-July Bash At The Beach in San Diego against Goldberg and NFL superstar Kevin Greene. What about the Hennig/Goldberg singles battle? Goldberg wants it, of course; he's not afraid of anything, or anyone. But what about Hennig? Sure appears the blonde battler is avoiding the gargantuan to all degrees.

Is Hennig fearful of joining Goldberg's hit list?

"Fearful? Not a chance," Hennig answered. "I know Goldberg needs a blemish on his record,







and I know sooner or later it's going to come from Curt Hennig. I'm the guy who can do it, hands down. I've got over 3,000 wins, whereas he's got just over 100 — and thinks he's the greatest wrestler in the history of the sport. I'm not saying that Goldberg isn't the man to hold this company together for the next millennium, because he probably is the top star in the business right now, but sooner or later he's gonna have to step into the ring against Curt Hennig. And I've held three World titles, not just scored a bunch of victories over a pack of patsies, as Goldberg has. Goldberg needs to be slapped; he needs to be humbled — and I'm just the man to do it."

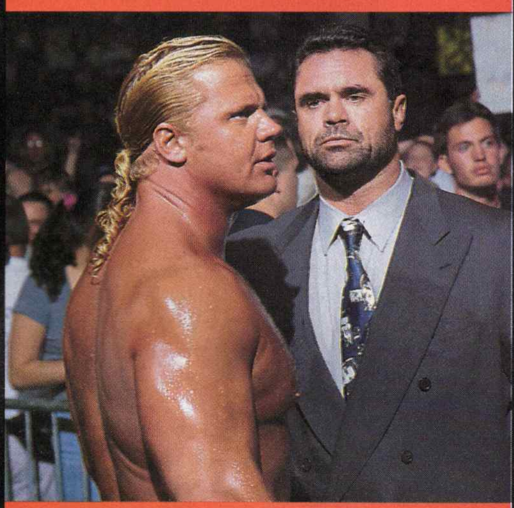
Added Rude, "There's no doubt that Goldberg doesn't want to step into the ring against Curt Hennig. Maybe in a few months, maybe in a few years. His record might be unblemished, but, have you ever taken a look at this guy's back; it's like Boil City. He's got this boil on his left side that is so big, I don't know if he can be beat. How can you pin him? Personally, I'm so sick and tired of hearing about Goldberg and his winning streak that I'm gonna make sure Curt does something about it, about him. I'm sure think there are executives in the company who are holding Curt back from stepping in there against him. They know that, if they let Hennig and Rude loose on Goldberg, we're gonna rip @$$, and his winning streak will be a thing of the past. I suppose then we'll really be hated and, well, that's fine with us. We could care less. In fact, we enjoy people hating us, because then they are easy to take advantage of."

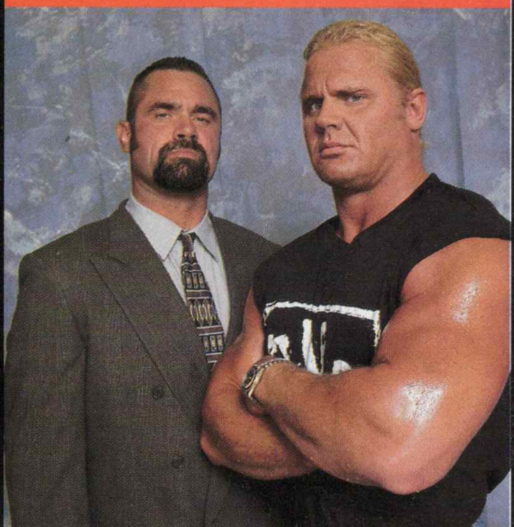
Hennig, the U.S. Heavyweight Champion for several months last year, interrupted Greene during a Monday Nitro interview in June, then, with Giant, sacked the football great. So much for stars stepping into the squared circle. Hey, Hennig and Rude brag they've been in more fist fights than any of these Johnny Come Latelys. Such as Greene.

It's one thing to be a wrestling fan, Hennig and Rude say; It's another thing to think — with think being the operative word — that you can battle with their dastardly doings.

"Kevin Greene is nothing more than a musclehead who struts into my business, trying to make a name for himself and walk away with the big cash because he thinks he can (wrestle)," Hennig said. "I don't care if it's a football player, past or present, a basketball player, past or present, a hockey player, past or present, a Tough Man, past or present ... you name it, if they get in my way, I'm gonna knock them down.

"Have you ever heard the term 'slumped'? For instance: He's slumped in the corner. Well, that was Kevin Greene. He came out to the ring, started talking big and bad, like he does on the football field where he's covered in pads from head to toe. But get inside the wrestling ring, where you've got no padding, where it's just flesh and bone. And you saw what happened to him."





Despite Hennig's allegiance to The NWO Hollywood crew — of present, at least — you know it's just a matter of time before he turns on Hogan. Maybe it'll be to realign with The Wolfpac. Or rejoin WCW. Or even The Four Horsemen, perhaps.

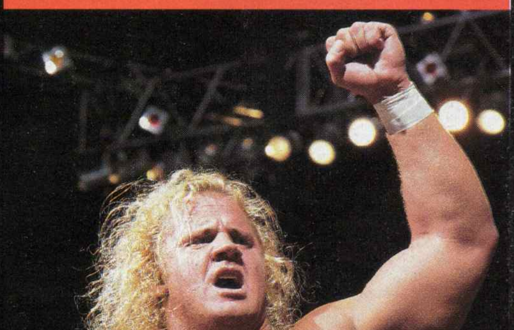
Hennig has bad mouthed Hogan for about as long as Hennig and Rude have been friends, so why the current friendship? That's the real question that needs to be answered, but don't expect an honest answer from this mysterious tandem. Just listen to Hennig's recent praise for Hogan, and the thought that he even praised Hogan is bizarre: "Hogan's done a lot for what we call this business of wrestling. There's no doubt about it, he's where the money is. But all in good time," Hennig said.

Added Rude: "As long as Hulk Hogan goes along with what we want to do, I'm fine with Hogan. But, if he wants to step on Curt's toes, he's stepping on his — and mine — too."

So what's ahead for the Hennig and Rude duo? Dissolving The Wolfpac, they insist. Or "Big Slimy And The Puppy Pack," as Rude refers to them. Then, vault back into title contention.

"How many people enjoy their job? I mean, thoroughly enjoy their job? Well, Curt Hennig and Rick Rude really are enjoying their job. Why? Because we're the best at our jobs," Rude said. "Everyone wants to know what's ahead for Rick Rude. Well, let me put it to you this way: Wherever Curt goes, I go. I've reached all of my personal goals. Now I'm just out for pleasure, for laughs."

And he's getting them — as is Curt — by toying with everyone else in their path.

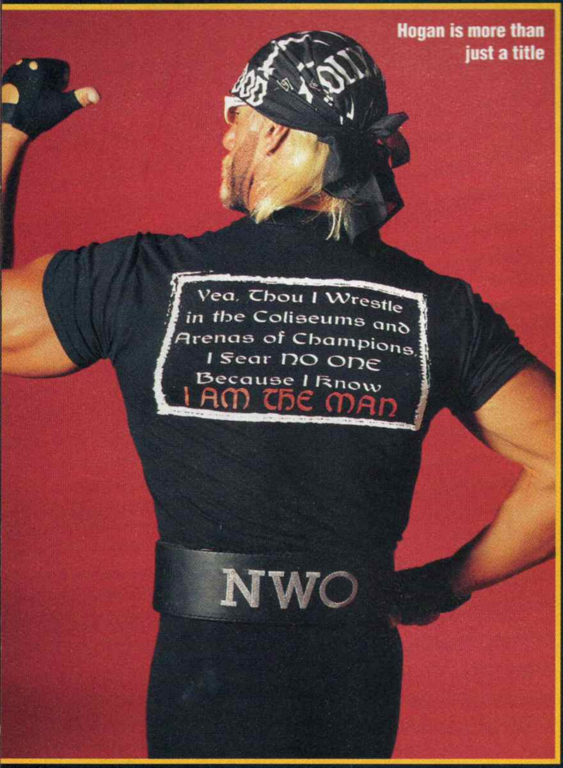


STRAIGHT FROM THE HART

I'd like to express my deepest sympathy and recall fond memories at the loss of one of wrestling's most indelible characters, The Junkyard Dog. With the millions of miles traveled during the career of a pro wrestler, one of the greatest frustrations is that no matter what road you take, it leads you farther from home. A wrestler's greatest fear is the highway. The fact JYD fell asleep behind the wheel, in his own home town, on the way back home from his daughter's high school graduation, is strangely like the old dog who traverses all kinds of hardships and obstacles to find his way home, then lies down to rest in the familiar safety of the family driveway.

So, where were we when we left off last month? I was saying how Sting had a decision to make. He could face the cold, hard truth and realize that WCW is/was not supporting him and get out before he gets double-crossed big time. He could give in to Lex Luger's urging, and go Red & Black Wolfpac. Or, he could join "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan's NWO. Or, he could take my advice. And what does it have to do with me? Ah yes, well, that is the big question. And it's a question I can't answer without tipping my hand to the plot of the most excellently executed long-term plan in the history of wrestling.

Everything is going according to plan. Everything. And everything is upside down and inside out. If you want to see how WCW's administrative layer is disintegrating, all you have to do is look at the upheaval in the tag team ranks. The Outsiders are defunct because Scott Hall has been MIA for several months. If you thought it was confusing to figure out how the NWO Outsiders could be WCW Tag champs, the tag situation is downright mind boggling now.



Hogan is more than just a title

First, with Sting and Giant as partners, the most prestigious tag championship in all of wrestling today was split between two federations — WCW and the NWO. We anxiously awaited J.J. Dillon's ruling, but, of course, the one thing you can count on with Dillon is, that you can't count on Dillon. Knowing that Giant was using one half of the Tag Championship to lure Sting to the NWO, you have to wonder why Dillon didn't immediately eliminate that enticement. You'd think he'd want to do anything and everything to keep Sting loyal to WCW, right? Or maybe they took it for granted that, through thick and thin, Sting would always be loyal, no matter what. They forgot something called dignity.

When Sting didn't bite the bait, and joined The Wolfpac, Giant decided that suddenly he was within his rights to strip Sting of the Tag Team Championship belts and appoint Brian Adams as his new partner. There's yet another title stolen from Sting! I can't believe The Wolfpac thinks it was Luger who brought Sting in, so they made him Head Recruiter. Giant and Adams challenged Luger and the partner of his choice. Here's where it gets even stranger. It would have been the perfect opportunity for Luger to team with Sting and get Sting back the belt he never lost. But who does Luger offer the title shot to? Diamond Dallas Page!

Enter J.J. Dillon, finally!! Four chapters late, he decided Giant had no right to precipitate any of this. He declared that Luger and Page are not the new Tag Team Champions, which they have one heck of a gripe about because they won the belts in a sanctioned WCW bout, in front of millions of witnesses. And, to top it off, Dillon mandated that Sting and Giant face off in a singles match, for the Tag titles, at Great American Bash. How did the WCW Executive Committee come up with the idea that it's legal for one man to win two tag straps in a singles bout?! And why does each man have to fight to keep a tag strap he's already won?! If Dillon had a problem with the tag championship straddling two federations, then why did he allow Giant and Sting to team up in the first place? When Sting won both tag straps by beating Giant, he gave one to Kevin Nash as pay back for when Luger handed one to Page, so, I guess that means his alliance with Luger is over. And the Wolfpac still thinks Luger brought Sting in. And why did I care what goes on in the tag ranks? Because the chaos there is indicative of the indecisiveness that is running rampant in WCW. I decided to take full advantage of all the contradictions by creating the biggest contradiction of all — the most unlikely tag team in the history of wrestling, "The Hitman" and "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan.

That tag win with Hulk Hogan, at the Great American Bash, over Randy Savage and "Rowdy" Roddy Piper has swelled my motivation to an all-time high. No, it's not because I pinned Savage, although that means a lot to me because I respect him as much as I do. My renewed enthusiasm is the result of the solid teamwork between "Hitman" and Hulk Hogan because it only goes to show that, if you lead a horse to water, you CAN make him drink.

Hogan is drunk from soaking up my compliments. When will Hogan realize that being such a huge international superstar, he shouldn't hold himself back from Hollywood's fast lane because of scheduling restrictions imposed by a wrestling title? Hogan's such an icon that he's so much bigger than just a title, don't you think?

Then there's the Greatest Uncrowned Champion in wrestling history, Edmonton's own Chris Benoit. Each of his Best of Seven series with Booker T. is a Match Of The Year candidate, so who would have thought their Great American Bash match-up would be the most intense of them all? I would! Why do you think I hit Booker T. with that chair in the seventh match? Well, to give Benoit an opportunity to prove what a stand-up guy he is. It's good to know who I can count on to do the right thing when the time comes.

After his loss to Booker T. the other day, a very focused and intense Benoit told me, "I'm going to keep on going until I get what I want — and that is gold!" That he and I think alike probably has something to do with the fact that we both graduated from my Dad's infamous Dungeon. Behind the scenes, we sometimes tease Benoit, Eddie Guerrero and Dean Malenko — their rivalries earned them the nickname The Three Musketeers of The Cruiserweight Division.

Dean Malenko is one of the most underrated and underappreciated guys in all of wrestling. After 17 years on the road, the fellow second-generation wrestler laments, "My father spent 30 years on the road and I hardly ever saw him. Now I have a beautiful daughter, born last Christmas night, and that has opened my eyes to all that we miss traveling in this business." Tell me about it. Malenko has a wrestling school in Florida and is seriously considering spending more time at home and training the next generation. I don't see retirement in the cards for him yet, because it's still too much in his blood.

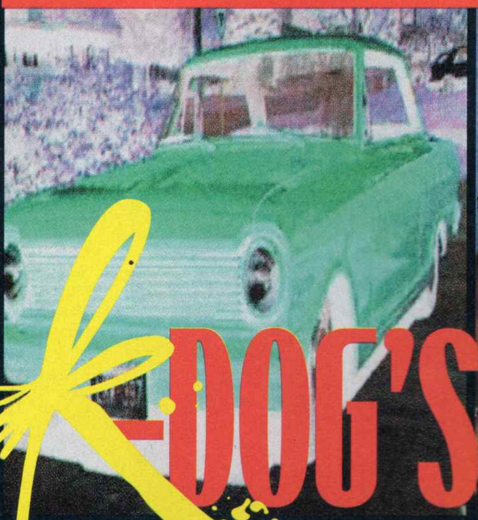
I'm impressed with Goldberg. I know I'm not alone in that. It's hard to imagine that he's come as far as he has in less than a year. There's a danger in rising to the top that fast. He's not the same guy he was back then. Now he shows up in limos and Lear jets, and is getting just a little too confident. I petitioned The Executive Committee to get a match with him as soon as possible, but there's been no word back. "Hollywood" says it's because they're afraid that the "Hitman" will end Goldberg's unprecedented (and, of course, moneymaking) winning streak! Maybe so. After all, I beat the guy who everyone keeps comparing Goldberg to, that snake from the Northeast, "Luke Warm." Hell yeah, "Luke Warm" is one tough SOB, but, I beat him to a pulp — more than once, before leaving that federation. Any similarities between the two stop at their black tights and bald heads. Goldberg is bigger, younger, meaner, stronger, faster and much smarter than "Luke Warm." I want Goldberg! I could use a good fight. I'm ready for a good fight.

People have asked me why I don't wrestle more often in WCW. I will; I've just been settling in, that's all. Don't you see that I had a battle raging on the inside ever since the debacle in Montreal? It's like, *"... a wave came crashing like a fist to the jaw ... delivered him wings. Hey look at me now ... arms wide open with the sea at his floor ... oh he's flying ... whole ... floated back down cause he wanted to share ... the key to the locks on the chains he saw ... everywhere ... first he was stripped ... then he was stabbed ... by faceless men, well ... he still stands ... and he still gives his love, he just gives it away and the love he receives is the love that is saved ... and sometimes is seen a strange spot in the sky ... a human being that was given to fly."* (Pearl Jam: Given to Fly)

Until next month,

Bret.

BRET HART



K-DOG'S LOW RIDE

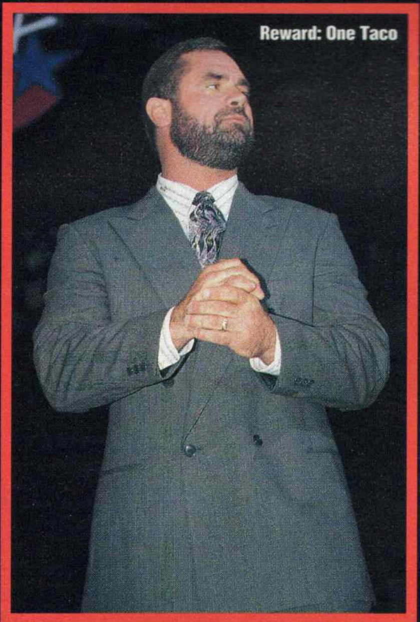
Hey, yo yo, I wanna send a shout out to all my Latin peoples, all La Raza that's down with the Wolfpac. This new ride is gonna be def. It will be tru, with the lo-lo on the Wolfpac and WCW. I'll give you the wassup every month in the wrestling biz and anything else I think is important, like movies worth seeing, CDs worth buying, etc. I will keep it real. It will be the freshest, I promise.

"Macho Man" Randy Savage was put out of action by "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan and his wac crew, but Hogan will find out what time it is real soon. As I write this first column, our Don, Kevin Nash, is already plotting a strategy to get ours. So, NWO Black & White, get ready to get got.

Here's a musical tip: I want to recommend Master P's latest album, The Last Don. It is the last time he's gonna be recording, and has a bunch of sweeeet guest appearances.

Personally, I want to send a shout out to Hustle-Town, also known as H-Town, or Houston. I was kicking it recently in Texas with Rey Mysterio, Jr., and Stevie Ray. We turnt the club Crystal out.

I wanna talk now about the main man,



Reward: One Taco

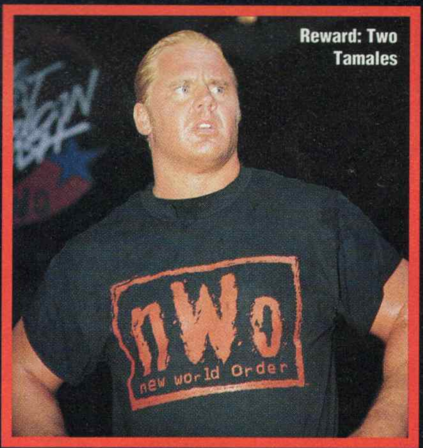
Kevin Nash. He's my main Dog. He's always looking out for his lieutenant, K-Doggy-Dog. Right now, we're pretty confused with Scott Hall's decision to defect, but we ain't mad atcha, Scott. Our doors are always open for ya, Scott. Think about it and come back.

Yes, peoples, I still am the Mexican Heavyweight Champion, and this is my sixth-time as the champ. (Six titles for K-Dog, six title for the Bulls ... pretty sweeeet, wouldn't ya say?) I also am the Mexican Tag Team Champion with Rey Mysterio, Jr. But you wanna know where are the belts? Well, due to WCW policy, or, as I call it, politics, they won't let me bring out my championship belts. There are certain words I can't say (in print or on TV), certain subjects I can't touch on, and there are certain signs that I can't throw up. Even though people will deny it, there has always been, on the down low, a campaign to try to hold me back. But K-Dog always will keep it real, will always represent. No matter what or where, I will not be frustrated.

I gotta talk about The Great American Bash, June in Baltimore. I lost to Goldberg and I'll give the kid his props: He is a phenomenon. He's on a roil right now. He basically just out muscles you. All I gotz to say about that match is, I've lost before and I'll lose again, and what goes up must come down. Ain't no biggie. I want to see how he's gonna be when he loses for the first time, cause everyone loses in this business. How will it effect him? I want to see that. It's like a boxer who gets knocked down for the first time — he's never the same afterward. How will Goldberg be mentally after he loses? He ain't gonna stay undefeated; we all know that. History dictates that.

I told Kevin Nash many times that Curt Hennig and Rick Rude weren't trustworthy. Well, we now knows their tru colors. They need not step on us again cause we's gonna bum-rush them. I would offer up a bounty on their heads, but all I would pay is two tamales and a taco ... about the same as their total value to the wrestling world.

I want to let the world know that the Mexican Klikalation is as strong as ever. Me, Rey, Juventud and Psychosis, no matter what, we'll always be like brothers, whether they're Wolfpac or not. The rest of the Mexican Klikalation, they've been done wrong because everyone knows that anytime they have been in



Reward: Two Tamales

a 4, 6 or 8 man tag team match, they blow the roof off the mother ... They just haven't been give a chance to prove themselves. As usual, it's just good talent withering away. So amigos leave WCW, the Wolfpac's doors are open.

In the 'niner-8, K-Dog, "Big Sexy," Sting and Lex, we're gonna show and prove, display our mat skills, and finally put an end to Hogan's stronghold on wrestling. I think his downfall has been WAAAAY overdue. Look for one of us to take that title from him this year.

Is it me, or does Eric Bischoff look a lot like John Davidson from the old TV show That's Incredible (not the former hockey goalie) and David Copperfield's illegitimate brother?

I saw a sign that said "God" with an arrow pointing up to the ceiling at a recent Monday Nitro ... I thought that was pretty funny. Another sign I laughed at was the one that said, "Hey, Juvi, put your mask back on ... you're stealing all the chicks." Finally, in my monthly analysis of signs, I liked the one that said, "It's Hall Good."

Hey raza, yo sigo siendo un vato loco 4-ever.

Mi vida loca

K-Dog

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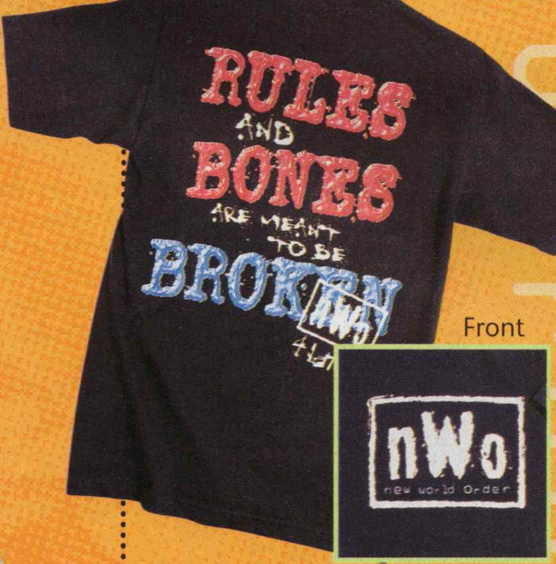

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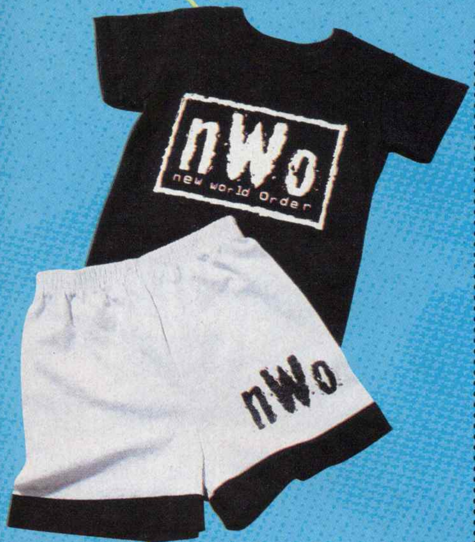

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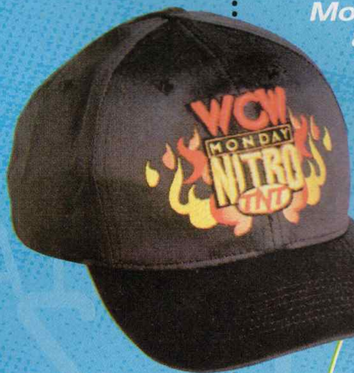

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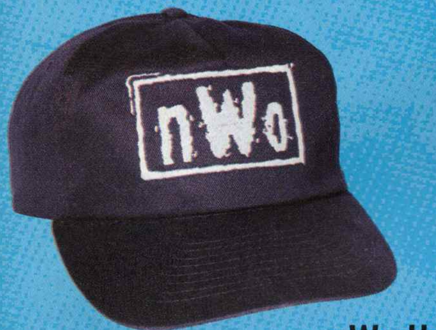

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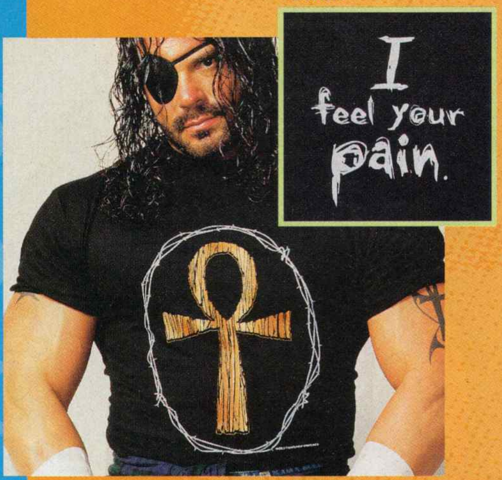

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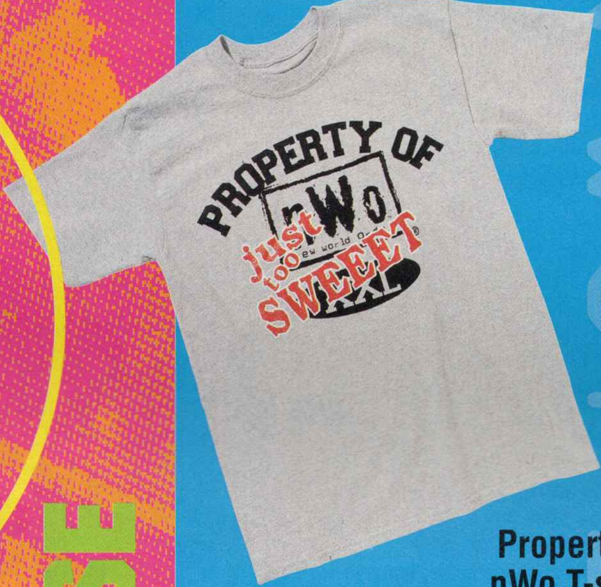

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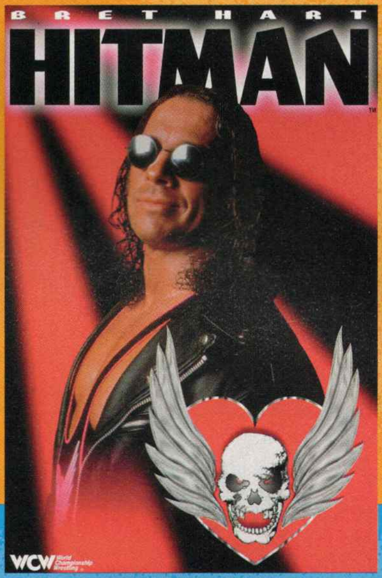

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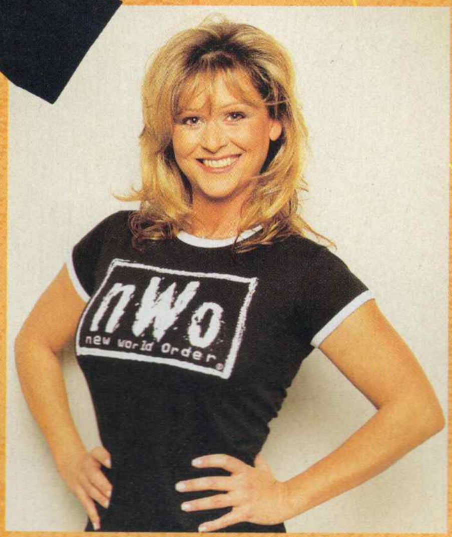

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NWO N 208 T $20.00

Big Boys Shorts

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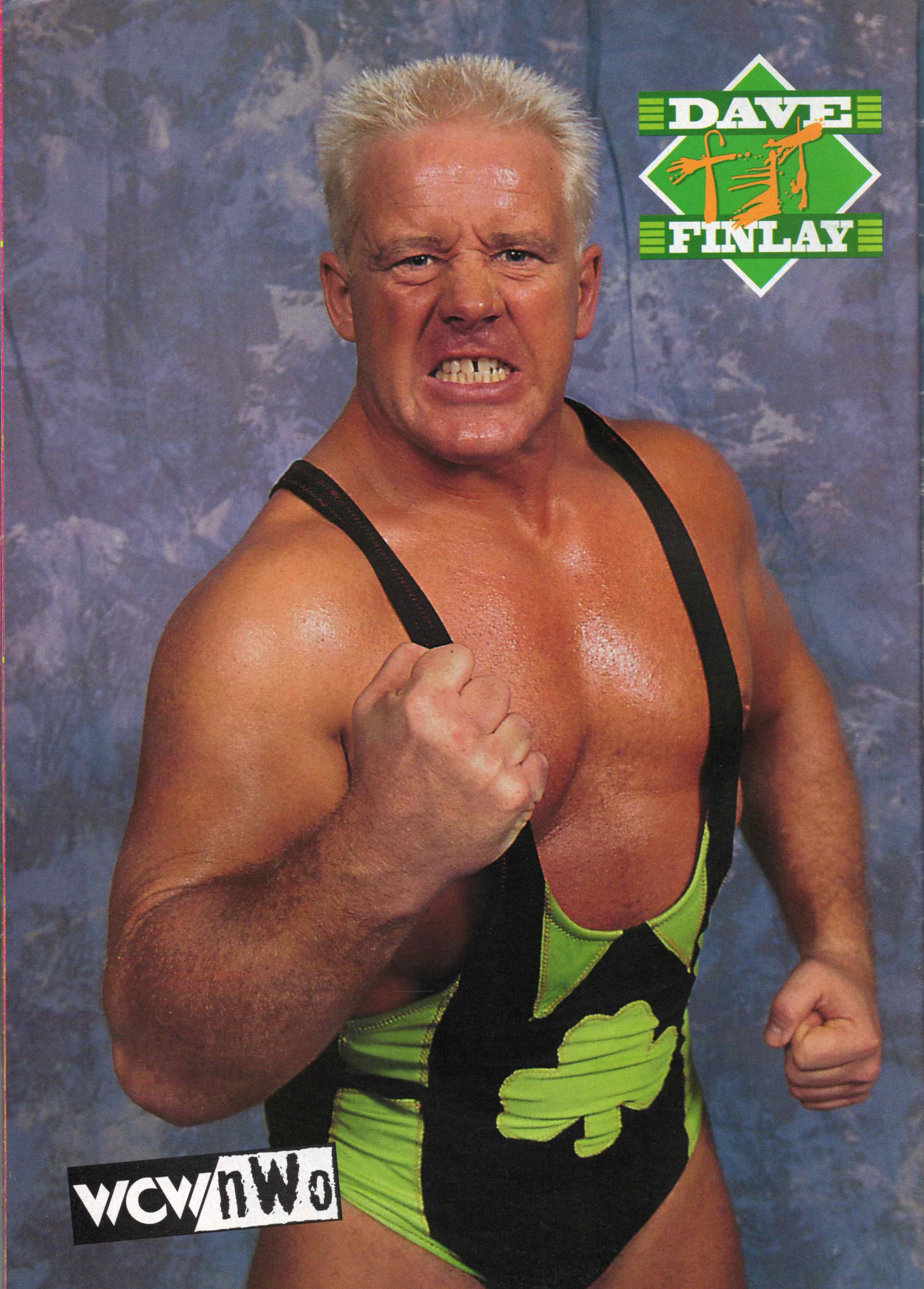
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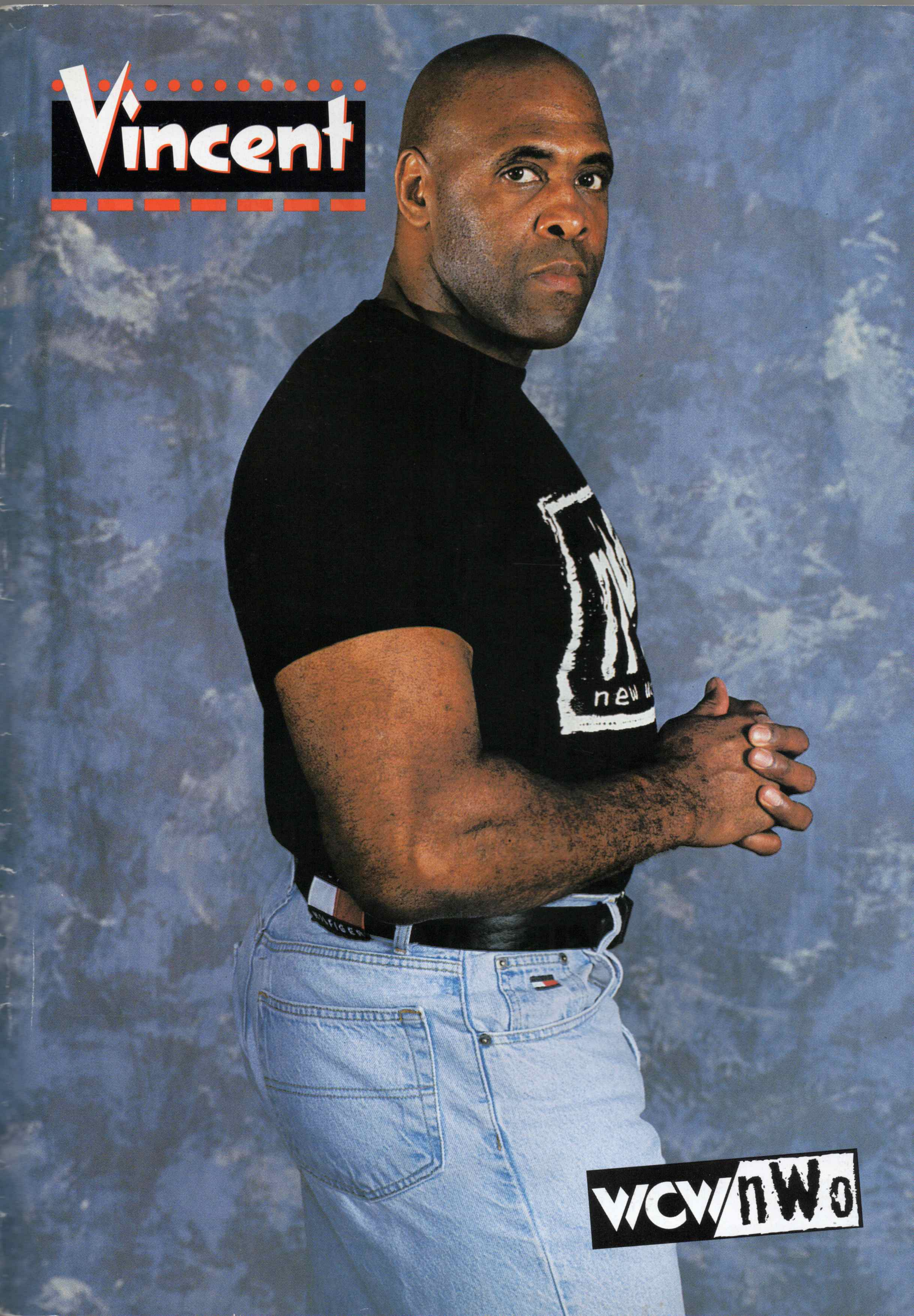
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